

July 21, 2024



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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In Memory of Pat Hester

## Delightful Precepts Psalm 119:73-80

### Lesson Background and Key Verse

Psalm 119 takes up the art of living in an almost obsessive way, as it repeatedly turns to the same ideas and figures of speech. It emphasizes the Law of Moses (the Torah) as a guidebook to a life of dignity and moral integrity. It invites faithful people to delight in such a life, not merely endure it.

Psalm 119 is by far the longest poem in the Bible. Its length is due in part to the psalmist's decision to write an acrostic psalm, in which lines would begin with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This technique was a form used to display a comprehensive approach to the subject of the poem. The same convention appears in various forms in other Old Testament texts, such as Psalms 37; 111; 112, and Lamentations 1-4, among others. Psalm 119 takes the form to its extreme by including eight consecutive lines beginning with the same Hebrew letter. In English, this would mean eight poetic lines that start with the letter A, then eight more with B, and so on. Twenty-two Hebrew letters multiplied by eight lines equals the 176 verses found in Psalm 119.

While the alphabetically-structured sections are relatively self-contained, several themes and keywords repeatedly appear throughout the psalm. These include various words for the Law of Moses ("commands" [Psalm 119:73]; "laws" [v. 75]; "precepts" [v. 78]; "decrees" [v. 80]; etc.) and the response of the faithful person to the law ("delight" [v. 77]; "comfort" [v. 76]; etc.). In its expression of such ideas, verses 73-80 all begin with the Hebrew letter yodh. This section focuses on the psalmist's hope and prayer for a future that will be better than the past.

Like Psalm 71, this section of Psalm 119 portrays God as the teacher and the human praying as the student in the school of life. The student learns the commandments, the Law of Moses, not merely as a set of arbitrary rules, but as a window into the meaning of life. By providing a clear structure to everyday life, the law invites a person to inner peace and openness to the work of the creator God. These commandments rest on God's prior commitment to justice (often paired with or assumed to accompany righteousness). God's deep desire for a fair and fertile world for human beings underlies everything in the revelation at Sinai (Exodus 20; etc.), and it can underlie everything in human life. So this psalm affirms.

**Key Verse:** Ps 119:73

*Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments*

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

A firm grasp of the truths of Scripture informed by God's Spirit working in our hearts keeps us from losing our way and helps us make decisions that honor God and others.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK:**

Heavenly Father, help me to treasure Your teaching today. Thank You for the rich, deep blessings of Scripture.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

(Psalm 19:7 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread," Nov 02, 2022)

**Series: Hope in the Lord**

**UNIT 2: Expressing Hope**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Expectant Watchfulness**  
**Psalm 130**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### MAJOR THEME ANALYSIS

#### **Precepts that Provide Comfort (Ps 119:73-76)**

##### *Comfort through understanding (73)*

Understanding is given to those of the kingdom of God (Mark 4:11)

Understanding draws people to God (Deut 4:6)

Understanding comes through the reading of God's word (Eph 3:2-4)

Understanding comes from living wisely (Eph 5:15-17)

Understanding comes from reflecting on God's word (2 Tim 2:7)

##### *Comfort through fear of the Lord (74)*

Those who fear the Lord will lack nothing (Ps 34:9)

Those who fear the Lord will have wealth and riches (Ps 112:1-3)

Those who fear the Lord will find life, prosperity and honor (Prov 21:21)

Those who fear the Lord have the key to treasures (Isa 33:6)

##### *Comfort through righteous judgment (75)*

Righteous because God does it without fail (Ps 7:11)

Righteous because God is righteous and has total integrity (Ps 7:8)

Righteous because God's judgment is founded on righteousness (Ps 94:14-15)

Righteous because Jesus relied on God's judgment (1 Peter 2:23)

##### *Comfort through God's love (76)*

God's love comforts because He is love (1 John 4:8)

God's love comforts because He is rich in it (Eph 2:4)

God's love comforts because He takes great delight in it (Zeph 3:17)

God's love comforts because of His grace (2 Thes 2:16)

#### **Precepts that Provide Merciful Salvation (Ps 119:77-80)**

##### *Salvation through God's mercy (77)*

Mercy because God loves us (Rom 5:8)

Mercy because His Son bore all of our transgressions (Isa 53:5-6)

Mercy because of grace (Eph 2:8-9)

Mercy because it prompted God's salvation (Rom 9:16)

Mercy that God started before the beginning of time (2 Tim 1:9)

##### *Salvation through meditation on God's word (78)*

God's word because it is the power of God for salvation (Rom 1:16)

God's word because it will never return to God without achieving its purpose (Isa 55:10-11)

God's word because it is the actual word of God (1 Thess 2:13)

God's word because it can produce a harvest of righteousness (Luke 8:15)

##### *Salvation through knowledge of God (79)*

Knowledge of God is understanding (Prov 9:10)

Knowledge of God is found through Jesus (Matt 11:27)

Knowledge of God is to have eternal life (John 17:3)

Knowledge of God is to know truth (1 John 5:20)

##### *Salvation through God's forgiveness (80)*

God's forgiveness sanctifies (Acts 26:17-18)

God's forgiveness rescues from a dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-14)

God's forgiveness is through Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28)

God's forgiveness is in accordance with His grace (Eph 1:7)