



THE WORD FOR TODAY

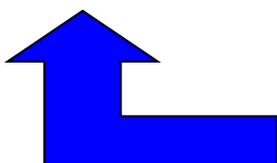
YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET (Psalm 119, verses 105—112)



Psalm 119 is by far the longest psalm. 176 verses in all, in 22 sets of 8 verses, a poem beautifully constructed and crafted. It is all in praise of God's Law (or statutes/precepts/word/commandments etc.), given to us as a gift of love so that we would know how to be God's people—how to stay close to him, how to navigate our way through life. God's Word to us reflects his nature, just as all good gifts reflect the nature of the giver, and just as Jesus, the Word made flesh, shows us what God is like.

We are made in the image of God, but we need guidance to behave as God wants us to. We need light to see where we are going, and God's Word is the light we need as we journey on. It is freely available., but we need to look for it and take it to our hearts.

Follow the words of this passage, beginning on the north wall of this little building. You will then walk round the church building anti-clockwise, pausing at various benches to read and think. There are seven boards to read. We use the New International Version of the Bible, which you can find on the internet under Bible Gateway. The whole "Word for Today" can be found on the church website, www.libertonkirk.net



Turn immediately left to find the first Bible extract on the bench

***“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.”***

1

I’ve always lived in cities, where it never seems to be completely dark. Visiting a cousin in the Borders who lived well off the beaten track I experienced “dark sky” and was rooted to the spot. I couldn’t see the way ahead. I couldn’t see what sort of ground my feet were walking into. If I moved I would be floundering about.

Life can be a bit like that at times. We can’t see what lies ahead and we don’t know what pitfalls there might be. Either we are stuck in a state of indecision or we can head off and hope for the best. Or is there a better way? Is there somewhere we can seek guidance?



***Lord, thank you for providing light for my path through life.
Show me where to go when I need guidance.
Make it a habit that I turn to you before stepping into the unknown***

(No. 2 is on the bench straight ahead of you near the East Door of the church)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“I have taken an oath and confirmed it,
that I will follow your righteous laws.”*

2

We tend to think of rules and regulations as a bit of a nuisance—take health and safety for example. Rules and regulations are important, however, and nobody wants to go back to the days when the death toll on building projects or in some occupations was high because there were no health and safety rules.

We would do well to remember that God’s laws are good laws which are to keep us on the right path. Life is better if we are on the right path—it is not just to please God that we try to keep his laws, it is for our own well-being.



Anyone joining the church will promise among other things to read the Bible every day, but it’s so easy to slip out of that regular commitment. Anyone taking Jesus into their life is committing to follow him and his ways. Can we keep to these promises?

*Lord, help me to realise that your laws are good for me.
Give me the strength to follow Jesus more closely
and so have the full life he came to bring.*

(No. 3 is round the corner of the church against the East wall)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“I have suffered much;
preserve my life, O Lord,
according to your word.”*

3

There have been times in my life when I have been so thankful for my faith. When times are hard our faith in a loving God is a warm blanket of reassurance that someone is there watching over us. The Bible is full of words of assurance, like these spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

*“So do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)*



*Lord, deepen my faith in you.
When I am suffering let me know your arms around me.
When I am weak, teach me to call on your strength.*

(No. 4 is further along this wall of the church)

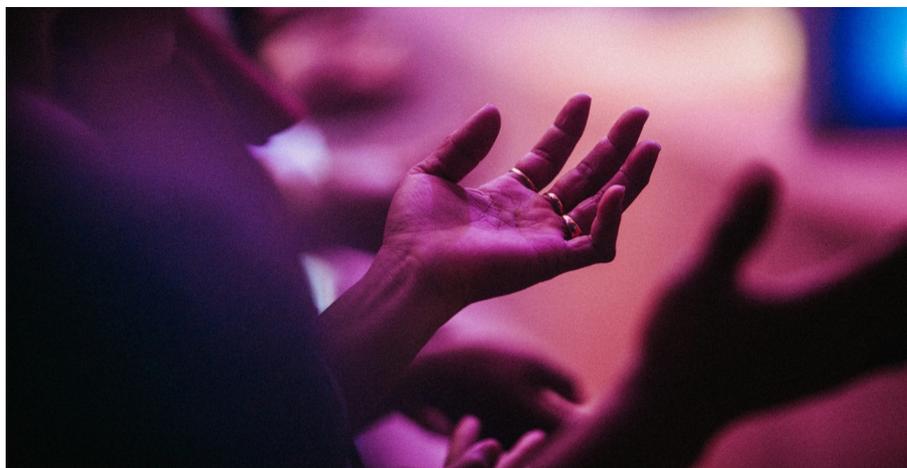


THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“Accept, O Lord,
the willing praise of my mouth,
and teach me your laws.”***

4

We can be so used to having the Bible freely available that we forget what a treasure-trove it is. We can be so familiar with some of its words that we no longer read them as the word of God. We need to have open hearts and minds as we read those precious words to hear God speaking to us through them—to hear what he wants to say to us through them. Then we will have them stored within us so that they become second nature to us in our daily lives. Our lives will be more fruitful as a result, fulfilling God’s plan: “. . . my word . . . will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)



***Lord, help me to read your word and hear you speaking through it.
Help me to take it to my heart so that it informs everything I do.
May it show in the life I am able to lead in your service.***

(Walk along the back of the church and turn right at the end. You will find No. 5 on the bench)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts.”

5



Occasionally in life we are suddenly hit by some sort of crisis: bad news, bereavement, financial disaster. On the other hand we may be hit by what seems to be very good news—or is it just temptation? Either can be enough to move us away from God unless we are close to him and not easily moved. Habits which keep us close are good. Have you tried our daily devotions? These give us a pattern of reading and prayer which we are following along with many others day by day, week by week, anchoring us firmly in God’s word for our daily living.*

*Lord, keep me close to you so that your way becomes my way.
Help me to avoid temptation.
Let nothing divert or dissuade me from following you.*

* See prayer section on church website www.libertonkirk.net

(You will be able to see No. 6 on the first bench before the tower)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Your statutes are my heritage for ever;
they are the joy of my heart.”*

6

The Bible is not just more reading matter to add to our bookshelves, the Word of God, God’s gift to us his children, is powerful. In the Letter to the Hebrews we read: *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword . . .”* (Hebrews 4:12).

It’s when we realise just how powerful God’s Word is that we begin to appreciate what a privilege it is to be a child of God. That’s when the joy makes itself felt, deep inside ourselves.

*Lord, thank you for having me in
your family, forgiven and loved.
Thank you for the privileges that
carries.*

*Thank you for the joy of reading
your powerful, living word.*



(You will find No. 7 beside the Covid Memorial and the Cairn, just past the tower)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“My heart is set on keeping your decrees
to the very end.”***

7

No-one is saying it's easy to live as God wants us to live. Jesus never said it was the easy option to choose to follow him—quite the contrary. We do know, however, that for those who seek constantly to keep to God's way the rewards are great. Paul puts it like this in his Letter to the Philippians: *“I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

The writer to the Hebrews tells us what is needed: *“. . . Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . .”* (Hebrews 12, 1-2). We start by setting our hearts on keeping to God's ways, and then we need perseverance—with prayers for a little help along the way!



***Lord, give me the will to want to
follow you.
Help me to persevere through
everything life brings me.
Guide and support me all the way,
I pray.***

***Liberton Kirk has no minister at the moment, but you can contact us at
minister@libertonkirk.net and your request will be dealt with by the appropriate person.***



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