

Lesson 18: Psalm 119:137-144 – *Tsadhe*

God and His Word are Righteous, True and Trustworthy

<i>ESV</i>	<i>NKJV</i>	<i>NASB</i>	<i>NIV</i>	<i>NLT</i>
137 Righteous are you, O Lord, and right are your rules.	137 Righteous are You, O Lord, And upright are Your judgments.	137 Righteous are You, O Lord, And upright are Your judgments.	137 Righteous are you, O Lord, and your laws are right.	137 O Lord, you are righteous, and your regulations are fair.
137 You are righteous, O Lord, and Your laws are right.				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>Righteous are you, O Lord. “Very often the ‘righteousness’ of God in the Psalms (and frequently elsewhere in the OT) refers to the faithfulness with which he acts. This faithfulness is in full accordance with his commitments (both expressed and implied) to his people and with his status as the divine King—to whom the powerless may look for protection, the oppressed for redress and the needy for help.” (<i>NIV Study Bible, footnote on Psalm 4:1, p. 789</i>)</p> <p>And right are your rules. God’s Word reflects His righteous character. Contrast the laws of man: Men are corrupt, and their laws often reflect their corrupt character.</p> <p>God’s Word is the supreme standard of right and wrong, of righteousness and wickedness.</p>				
Application: “Lord, I praise, worship and adore You because You and Your Word are absolutely righteous.”				
138 You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.	138 Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.	138 You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness And exceeding faithfulness.	138 The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy.	138 Your laws are perfect and completely trustworthy.
138 The statutes You have commanded are righteous; they are completely trustworthy.				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. As God is righteous and completely trustworthy, so is His Word.</p> <p>They are fully trustworthy (NIV). In contrast to deceitful ways, “Ways that seem right but lead to death...--in contrast to the ways prescribed by God’s law, which are trustworthy... and true.” (<i>NIV Study Bible, footnote on Psalm 119:29, p. 916</i>)</p>				
Application: “Thank You, Lord, that You and Your Word are completely trustworthy. You have never failed me.”				

139 My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.	139 My zeal has consumed me, Because my enemies have forgotten Your words.	139 My zeal has consumed me, Because my adversaries have forgotten Your words.	139 My zeal wears me out, for my enemies ignore your words.	139 I am overwhelmed with indignation, for my enemies have disregarded your words.
139 I am consumed by indignation, because my enemies ignore (forget) Your words.				
<p>Commentary: My zeal consumes me. Righteous indignation. "Zeal for God's law...awakens righteous anger against those who reject it..., and it brings abhorrence of all that is contrary to it...; but it draws together those who honor it..." (NIV Study Bible, footnote on Psalm 119:53, p. 917) Because my foes forget your words. Zeal for, commitment to, God's Word results in those who reject God and His Word becoming our enemies.</p>				
Application: "Lord, if I have enemies, may it be because of my loyalty and devotion to You and Your Word."				
140 Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.	140 Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.	140 Your word is very pure, Therefore Your servant loves it.	140 Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.	140 Your promises have been thoroughly tested; that is why I love them so much.
140 Your promises have been thoroughly tested and proven to be pure; therefore I, Your servant, love them.				
<p>Commentary: Your promise is well tried. Promise here is a synonym for God's Word. Tested and approved. (Good Housekeeping seal of approval.) The psalmist had put God's promises to the test in the crucible of life and found them to be trustworthy and true. "God's word contains nothing worthless or useless." (NIV Study Bible, p. 920) And your servant loves it. God's faithfulness to the promises of His Word had convinced the psalmist that they were trustworthy and true. He therefore loved God and His Word.</p>				
Application: "Thank You for Your faithfulness, Lord. Thank You that I can trust You and Your Word completely."				
141 I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts.	141 I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts.	141 I am small and despised, Yet I do not forget Your precepts.	141 Though I am lowly and despised, I do not forget your precepts.	141 I am insignificant and despised, but I don't forget your commandments.
141 I am insignificant and despised, but I do not forget Your precepts.				

Commentary:

I am small and despised. Rejection by men drove him to God’s Word for comfort and help.

“The author speaks much of his sorrow, suffering and affliction... It is likely that the ridicule, slander and persecution from his adversaries are usually occasioned by this suffering of God’s devoted servant, who makes God’s word (his law and promises) the hope of his life.” (NIV Study Bible, footnote on Psalm 119:25, p. 915)

Yet I do not forget your precepts. Rejection from men can be a good thing if it motivates us to seek the Lord.

Application: “Lord, by Your grace and with Your help, may I never forget Your Word.”

142 Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

142 Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true.

142 Your justice is eternal, and your instructions are perfectly true.

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is true.

Commentary:

Your righteousness is righteous forever. God’s character does not change over time; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). God is faithful and consistent. The Word of God reflects the character of God.

And your law is true. In a world full of lies, God’s Word is true.

Jesus said in John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Application:

“Lord, I praise, worship and adore You because You are eternally righteous. Thank You for revealing the truthfulness of Your Word to me.”

143 Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight.

143 Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delights.

143 Trouble and anguish have come upon me, Yet Your commandments are my delight.

143 Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands are my delight.

143 As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands.

143 Trouble and anguish have overwhelmed me, but Your commandments are my delight.

Commentary:

Trouble and anguish have found me out. Trouble and distress motivated him to seek the Lord through His Word.

Romans 8:28-29 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of (tempers as by fire) those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son...”

As we turn to the Lord and His Word in the midst of distress, God the Holy Spirit transforms us more and more into the image of Christ. The fire of trials plus the truths of God’s Word refine, transform and temper us.

The process for creating alloys that are stronger than the original metal: Trials + Truths = Transformation.

tem-per **1.** To modify by the addition of a moderating element; **2.** To bring to a desired consistency, texture, hardness, or other physical condition by or as if by blending, admixing, or kneading; **3.** To harden or strengthen (metal or glass) by application of heat or by heating and cooling. **4.** To strengthen through experience or hardship; toughen: *soldiers who had been tempered by combat.* **5.** To adjust finely; attune...
5.a. The condition of being tempered. **b.** The degree of hardness and elasticity of a metal, chiefly steel, achieved by tempering. (*The American Heritage Dictionary*)

But your commandments are my delight. Life brings trouble and anguish but God’s Word brings delight.

Application: “Thank You, Lord, that Your intention is to make me stronger and more Christlike through the trials and tribulations of my life.”

<p>144 Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.</p>	<p>144 The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.</p>	<p>144 Your testimonies are righteous forever; Give me understanding that I may live.</p>	<p>144 Your statutes are forever right; give me understanding that I may live.</p>	<p>144 Your laws are always right; help me to understand them so I may live.</p>
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144 Your statutes are righteous forever; give me understanding so that I may live.

Commentary:

Give me understanding so that I may life. God, the Holy Spirit, is our Teacher; He gives us understanding of God’s Word.

Application: “Lord, I humbly ask for good understanding as I meditate on Your Word.”

Tsadhe

137 You are righteous, O Lord, and Your laws are right.

138 The statutes You have commanded are righteous; they are completely trustworthy.

139 I am consumed by indignation, because my enemies ignore (forget) Your words.

140 Your promises have been thoroughly tested and proven to be pure; therefore I, Your servant, love them.

141 I am insignificant and despised, but I do not forget Your precepts.

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is true.

143 Trouble and anguish have overwhelmed me, but Your commandments are my delight.

144 Your statutes are righteous forever; give me understanding so that I may live.