

A Pastor's Thoughts

Psalm 119:65-72

Teth

*You have dealt well with your servant,
O LORD, according to your word.
Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.
Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I keep your word.
You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.
The insolent smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;
their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law.
It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.
The law of your mouth is better to me than
thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

It was good for me that I was afflicted.

This is not a statement that most people would make, but yet here it is from the psalmist. When we get comfortable with everything in our lives, we tend to stop striving for anything more. We become content, and do not grow in anything, especially our reading and study of God's word. God will indeed poke us with afflictions to get us into His word, and we, like the psalmist, must give thanks. In the book of James, it tells us to count it all joy the trials we meet. Nothing has ever grown from complacency.

“The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself.”

— Charles Spurgeon