

*Psalm 119:1-8*

*Aleph Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD!*

*Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,  
who seek him with their whole heart,  
who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his ways!*

*You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.  
Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!*

*Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.  
I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous rules. I  
will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me!*

This psalm may be considered as the statement of a believer's experience. As far as our views, desires, and affections agree with what is here expressed, they come from the influences of the Holy Spirit, and no further. The pardoning mercy of God in Christ, is the only source of a sinner's happiness. And those are most happy, who are preserved most free from the defilement of sin, who simply believe God's testimonies, and depend on his promises. If the heart be divided between him and the world, it is evil. But the saints carefully avoid all sin; they are conscious of much evil that clogs them in the ways of God, but not of that wickedness which draws them out of those ways. The tempter would make men think they are at them out of those ways. The tempter would make men think they are at liberty to follow the word of God or not, as they please. But the desire and prayer of a good man agree with the will and command of God. If a man expects by obedience in one thing to purchase indulgence for disobedience in others, his hypocrisy will be detected; if he is not ashamed in this world, everlasting shame will be his portion. The psalmist coveted to learn the laws of God, to give God the glory. And believers see that if God forsakes them, the temper will be too hard for them.

*- Matthew Henry, MHCC*