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“My soul clings to the dust: Revive me according to Your word...My soul melts from heaviness: Strengthen me according to Your word” (Psalm 119:25-29)

This, the second octave of the 119th Psalm sets forth the condition of the suppliant and its proposed remedy in verses 25 and 28. The condition is one not uncommon among the saints. The spiritual level in the lives of our souls waxes and wanes. Our emotions, subjective feelings, our perceptions of God and spiritual realities are not always bright and clear. We become spiritually depressed. No surface thing, not a fleeting or passing thing, it seems our souls “cleave to the dust” refusing to be lifted. Whether this state be from grief, disappointment, sorrow, or from being taken up with the things of the world, the effect is the same. We sense ourselves spiritually dead and in need of reviving, quickening, made alive to God, and strengthened in the inner man.

Both desired objectives (“Revive me, Quicken me) are to be realized “according to your word”. Spiritual depression may be effectually dispatched only by a renewed grasp of the word of God, of truth, of unshakable, unchanging, fixed eternal realities. Nothing else will provide the sure footing whereby a soul may wrest itself free from both the muck and quicksand of earthly delusions, and the taunts and condemnations that come from demons.

“Teach me” (vs. 26). We must be taught God’s statutes, and God Himself must be our teacher. “All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children” (Is. 54:13). Here is the fountain of joy and peace. Jesus urges us to learn of Him and find rest for our souls (Matt. 11:29). Books and counselors may instruct and inform our minds, but it is our souls which need lifting; God alone is sufficient for that

“Make me to understand the way of your precepts” (vs. 27). How simple the matter of evangelism would be if men should understand all they hear! No sooner than being told the truth, they would repent and believe. But that is not the case. Precious little of the seed falls on good soil and brings forth fruits, most being devoured by demons, denied depth, or choked by distractions. May God deeply plow my soul, open my heart and cause me to see, understand, receive and live in the way of His precepts!

“Remove from me the way of lying” (vs.29). Cure me of this leprosy! May I not compound my dishonesty by denying it. We all come forth from the womb speaking lies. We come into a world of darkness, distrust and deception. No one trusts anyone or anything, for we all well know that “all men are liars”. The “way of lying” is comprehensive. We hear lies, tell lies, live lies, and hope in lies. No wonder we walk in fear and uncertainty, and doubt that absolute truth exists. O God, banish this darkness from my soul and mind, and set before me the bright clear way of truth in your word.

“Grant me your law graciously”. What is this request “grant me your law”?

Has God withheld His law? Has He not given it to all, even written its work in the hearts of people with no Bible or no human witness? Are not all men thus accountable and without excuse? Ah, yes. God’s law is revealed to the outer eye, even in the

consciences of unconverted men. But it has not yet been *graciously* imparted to the soul.

Paul grew up under the strict teaching of God's law, nevertheless he "was alive without the law." There came a time, however, when "the commandment came" (Rom. 7:9). Grace imparted the law to his soul. When that happened "sin revived", that is, he saw his sin in the brilliance of God's holy law, he understood, he "died", was brought to see the awful delusion and ruin of his way, came to the end of himself and the beginning of life in Christ. Oh, may God's law come to us by grace, that we may die, that we may *revive* and *live* in Christ!

-C. M.