

The Lord, my Portion
(Psalm 119:57-64)

In this, the eighth octave of the 119th Psalm, is found a beautiful chronicle of a sinner's conversion:

Vs. 57. *"You are my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep Your words"*. A decision that every person must make has been settled. The question is, "What shall my portion in life be? Shall it be riches, power, pleasure, fame, self-indulgence, or shall it be the Eternal God and unchanging truth. Once it is settled that God shall be my portion, it is also settled that I must keep His words.

Vs. 58. *"I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word"*. Having chosen the Lord as His portion, the sinner must now seek His favor. He must gain a hope that he has been accepted. He immediately learns that if he is to be accepted, then He, as a sinner, must find mercy according to God's word. That word tells us that it is through the obedience of Jesus Christ that we may be accepted and find favor in God's sight.

Vs. 59. *"I thought on my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies"*. The Holy Spirit forces the seeking sinner to face his sinfulness, his wicked ways. He makes him to grieve over them; to be repulsed by them, and to immediately turn his feet, change his walk to the paths of righteousness outlined in God's testimonies. We usually call this repentance!

Vs. 60. *"I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments"*.

Here is no Pharaoh willing to spend another night with the frogs. The seeking soul has had enough of sin, its curses and the wrath of God. The warm smile of God's love bids him shed his sins as quickly as he learns them, to flee them like deadly serpents.

Vs. 61 *"The cords of the wicked have bound me, But I have not forgotten Your law"*. Though this fledgling Christian would be quickly rid of his evil masters in sin, they are not so hasty to lose their slave. If we have nothing but the will of the flesh and carnal reason, these cords will keep us bound. But the believer fixes his eyes on God's immutable law. These wicked traits are not merely "human weaknesses", "fixed family traits". I am not a "victim of society". No, God's law tells me they are merely *sins*, and our triumphant Christ has broken both their penalty and power.

Vs. 62. *"At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of your righteous judgments."* Resolve to be God's child has been settled. Acceptance in Christ has been secured. Repentance has been found. Deliverance from sin's bondage has been wrought. No more does this one awake in the night with terrors upon his soul, but rather with joy, thanksgiving and praise for the perfect and glorious judgments of God.

Vs. 63. *"I am a companion of all those who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts"*. Having become a child of God, a son in Christ and a companion of the Holy Spirit the believer now finds himself in that innumerable multitude of the family of God. He is added to the church! He is a companion of every righteous person on earth and in heaven!

Vs. 64. *“The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy; Teach me Your statutes.”* Bitter railing and whining over the evils of this present fallen creation is over. The saint’s eyes are too occupied with the goodness and glory of God.
C. M.