

Part 2 – The Way and the Path to Follow

In part 1 we learned that we should look to God by trusting in Him to help us in all our times of trouble and temptations. We should ‘lift up’ our soul to Him, not in pride – but in earnestly asking Him to help us overcome the desires and emotional pulls of the carnal mind (heart) so we can obey Him faithfully and sincerely. We also learned that God won’t let us be ‘ashamed’ when we trust in Him. He also won’t let us be spiritually weak or feeble nor disappointed for following Him faithfully IF our heart is right with Him. If we seek those things which matter most (loving Him and our fellow mankind) rather than coveting earthly riches, fame and power (ect.), then He’ll always help us through the hard times and give us peace of mind, even when we do have to endure some trials and tribulations. And peace of mind is something that can’t be bought, yet it’s more precious than anything else on earth. However, those who do not ‘wait’ on God (bind their soul to His through studying His Word and listening to His Holy Spirit) will be ‘ashamed’ in every meaning of the word. They will be spiritually weak and feeble. They will be ashamed and disappointed because they’ll never have what they want in life, because lust in their heart continues to fuel an unquenchable desire for ‘more and more’ of *everything*. And this is also what causes them to transgress God’s laws, which brings upon them cursings instead of the blessings they coveted so much. So, in verses 1-2 we learned how we should worship God by ‘looking up’ to Him in faith, and trust that He is faithful to reward those who love and obey Him, *just as much as* He is faithful to punish those who do *not*. We’ll now move on to some more beautiful verses in this Psalm which explains the kind of worship that will be done (and is yet to day) by those who love the Lord, when the King of Glory returns to this earth...

Psalm 25

4 Shew me thy **ways**, O LORD; teach me thy **paths**.

The Hebrew word for ‘**shew**’ here is *yada*’ (#3045), a primitive root that means: **to know** (properly, *to ascertain by seeing*); used in a great variety of senses - figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially (including **observation**, **care**, **recognition**; and causatively, **instruction**, **designation**, **punishment**, etc.). And the word ‘**ways**’ is *derek* (#1870), which means: **a road** (as *trodden*); figuratively, **a course of life or mode of action**. And it comes from the prime root *darak* (#1869), which means: **to tread** and, by implication, it means **to walk**; interestingly, it also means **to string a bow** (by *treading on it in bending*). Further, and just as interestingly, the word ‘**teach**’ is a prime root *lamad* (#3925) that means: **to goad**, i.e. (by implication) **to teach** (the rod being an Oriental incentive) as in [un-] accustomed, diligently, expert, instruct, learn, skilful, teach (-er, -ing). And the word ‘**paths**’ is *orach* (#734) that means: **a well-trodden road** (literally or figuratively) and can also mean **a caravan**. And it comes from a prime root that means **to travel** (*arach* #732).

Now, let’s remember that this Psalm explains the kind of worship that was done after the Ark of the Covenant was finally brought to Zion (Jerusalem) in the days of David; and thus, it is *prophetical* for the kind of worship that *will be done* in Zion when Jesus Christ returns as the King of glory. But it also teaches us ‘the way’ we should worship even *now*. So, this teaches us

that, a large part of worship is asking (and looking to) our Heavenly Father (YHVH) for help to learn the ‘path of life’ - because walking in ‘the way’ of the Lord (YHVH) is the *only* thing that fill us with joy and pleasures *because* we are in His presence (Ps 16:11). And, as Deut 30 (and elsewhere) also explains, **there are only two ‘ways’ (or paths) in life we can follow**. One ‘way’ (path) is to follow the Lord (YHVH) and we can only ‘walk’ on that path (way) when we accept Jesus Christ, for our Heavenly Father has sent His Son to teach us that ‘way’ (path) (Deut 18:18-19). And therefore, without accepting His only begotten Son, we’ll *inevitable follow* the other ‘path’ (way)... and that ‘path’ (way) only leads to spiritual death (Rom 8:6-7). As Rom 6:23 so succinctly puts it: *the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*. Further, Jesus told us in John 14:6: *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*. So, there’s no way we can ‘walk’ on the ‘path’ (way) of life without accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior and King, for He is the ‘good’ Shepherd (as Ps 23 taught us) that leads us to eternal life. We *must* understand that the only other ‘path’ (way) to follow, leads us to death and that death is a permanent death of our soul **if** we don’t accept the ‘way’ (path) of Jesus Christ by the end of the Millennium (Rev 20). This fact is what many people simply don’t grasp. They think they can ‘follow their heart’ and it’ll lead them to ‘good things’ they desire (lust for), *but it actually leads them to spiritual death*. As Romans 8 explains so very well, when we follow our ‘carnal mind’ – which is our ‘heart’ – then we’re actually being led down the ‘path’ (way) *of death, not to life*. But many don’t understand this because their mind is blinded by Satan – the ‘god of this world’...

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels [i.e. the Holy Spirit within us], that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. [the Holy Spirit is a gift from God when we believe in Jesus Christ]

2 Cor 4:4-7

Indeed, Jesus Christ is the *only* (way, path) that teaches us ‘the way’ to the knowledge of the glory of God (eternal life). Thus, the Word of God (the Bible) is the only thing that teaches us who God is and what His ways are. And, as our Heavenly Father said through the prophet Isaiah...

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isa 55:6-9

Truly, the Lord's (YHVH) ways and thoughts are *so much higher* than ours are because **He doesn't think carnally** like we so often do (and like Satan *always* does). As Rom 8:6-7 says: *to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* So, if we want eternal life, we must learn to think in a 'higher' way than what our fleshly (carnal) mind wants us to. Prov 16:25 warns us that *there is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*. This is what 'following your heart' leads you to: death. And the death is a spiritual death, where your very existence will be 'blotted out' forever. So, following the carnal mind (our heart) is following Satan's 'ways', which lead us on the 'path' to destruction and death. Satan is truly a 'dead man walking', for he's already sentenced to death (Ezek 28, Rev 20) and therefore, following him is truly walking on a 'path' to death and even walking in the way of 'death' itself. So, *the choice is ours* whether we want the course of our life (path) to be evil or good. But only one leads to blessings and eternal life (following Jesus Christ) while the *only* other option leads to cursings and eternal death (following our 'heart' [carnal mind], which is truly following Satan, who is death itself, Heb 2:14).

So, David's prayer here is really important to understand. Part of worshiping our Heavenly Father is looking to HIM for guidance and direction in our life. Not only in our words and actions, but also in our thought life, as well as our emotional life. It takes great discipline (self-control) to control our 'carnal mind' (heart) *so it doesn't lead us astray* (to apostasy, rebellion against God). And this is why people so often don't choose the right and good 'path' (way) of truly following Jesus Christ. After all, it's much easier to just do what you want and then complain about the 'fall out' from it. It's also a lot easier just to go to Church once a week and fool yourself into thinking you're pleasing to God. But the reality is that **Church is Not Christianity** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212>]. The word 'Church' doesn't mean a building, it means '*a calling out*' (#1577) of confusion and sin that the carnal mind brings when we follow the destructive 'path' (way) of lies and deception. As Jesus taught us in John 4, worshiping God is not truly done in a building. And it's also not about following rituals or traditions of man (Mth 15, Mk 7). It's about being brave enough to analyze what goes on in our heart (desires, emotions, motivations, intentions) and mind (thought process) and then learning (from God's Word) to discipline our 'inner man' so that we change from our sinful thoughts, desires, emotions (even motivations and intentions) as well as our words and actions. Basically, we stop sin habitually. While we all fall short at times, sinning shouldn't be a 'lifestyle' (path or course of life) for us when we believe in Jesus Christ. And when we do fall short, we must sincerely repent for it (in Jesus' name) and *strive hard* to change (from the heart).

Therefore, we must learn to discipline our 'inner man' *so we don't even think or desire wicked things. That's what true worship is all about*. And that's why David is asking God to 'shew' (help him know and understand) HIS 'ways' (course of life, mode of action) and to 'teach' (to teach and even 'goad' us when necessary) His 'paths' (the only road to eternal life) to him. And we too should pray likewise - because indeed, *there is a way which seemeth right unto a man,*

but the end thereof are the ways of death (Prov 14:12). Prov 4:19 also tells us that *the way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble*. So, if we don't want to be fooled into following the ways, and path, that lead us to spiritual death, ***we have to stay on the right 'path'*** (way) that leads us to eternal life. And, if we continue to study the Word of God, consistently and sincerely, then Jesus Christ will lead us in the 'path' of righteousness for that's what the 'good' Shepherd does (Ps 23:3). And this is what 'restores' our soul back to our Heavenly Father so we can live eternally with Him. As Ps 119:1 says: *blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD*. Verses 36-37 of this Psalms also explain how Jesus Christ helps us stay in the 'way' (path) of life when praying (in sincere worship) for help to: *Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in [make me to live in] thy way*.

Another point to remember is that our 'good' Shepherd (Jesus Christ) has two ways of teaching us. One is through the written Word of God. As Jesus said we are cleaned (sanctified) by studying, and understanding, God's Word (John 15:3, 17:17). Which is why Paul says that *the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart* (Heb 4:12). And then Paul further explains that *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* (Rom 10:17). But if we don't understand God's Word it does us no good. And that's why the other way Jesus Christ teaches us is with His Holy Spirit, which is only given to us when we believe in Him and 'learn of Him' (Mth 11:29) by studying His written word. After all, ***His written Word (the Bible) IS God's Holy Spirit (mindset) in written form***. Whenever you open the Word of God and study it (sincerely), *you are opening your mind to His Holy Spirit*. And you're also seeking His 'face', meaning you're seeking to know Him and His 'ways' (the path) that lead to eternal life. That's why Jesus said that *it is the spirit that quickeneth* [makes us spiritually alive]; *the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life* (John 6:63).

So, as we study His Word sincerely, and keep it in our heart and mind throughout the day to try and *obey it*, the Holy Spirit will come into our soul and *help us understand it*, as well as help us *remember it* so we can obey it in our daily life. As He explained in John 16:13: *when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come*. So, we don't need to look to any rituals (like simply going to Church where they don't even teach God's Word) nor any physical things to make us 'holy' – we must look to God's Word and ask for help to understand (and obey) it from His Holy Spirit. If we are sincere, God will give us the Holy Spirit as we study His Word [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1220>] and keep It upon us in our daily life, so we can understand God's 'ways' and learn how to walk in His 'paths' every single day of our life... that we *continue* to seek Him sincerely and diligently.

Psalm 25

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

David again (in worshiping God) asks the Lord (YHVH) to lead and teach him in the truth, which is ‘the [only] way’ (path) to eternal life. The word ‘**lead**’ here is the prim root of the word ‘ways’ back in verse 4, which means **to tread** and **to walk** (#1869). And the word ‘**truth**’ means **stability, certainty, truth, trustworthiness** (#571). It comes from a prim root that means **to build up or support**, even *to foster as a parent or nurse*. Figuratively it means **to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe**, to **be permanent or quiet**. Morally it means to be true or certain, which is why the Bible speaks of the ‘way of truth’ meaning to ‘go to the right hand’ (as in Isa 30:21). So, God’s Word **is** THE truth (John 17:17) and learning it frees us from the lies that Satan (and his followers) speak (John 8:32). Once we finally understand that learning God’s Word (truth) is what leads to eternal life, and even brings blessings (such as peace of mind) in this life, it’s much easier to correct our life so that we willingly walk on the ‘path’ of eternal life – because we *want* to! Said another way, when we understand that the ‘good’ Shepherd (Jesus Christ) leads us to *eternal life*, we will *willingly* follow Him.

And that’s why David asks God to lead and teach him truth because he knows that God is the *only* one who saves us (through Jesus Christ). And once we finally grasp this fact, we will be eager to learn God’s Word. It will be easy to ‘find’ the time to study His Word *because you want to*. And if we *really* want to do something, we *will* find time for it, no matter how busy we are. Notice also how David uses the word ‘wait’ again (#6960) when saying that he ‘waits’ on the Lord (YHVH) all the day. David worked to bind his soul to the Lord (YHVH) all throughout the day. And truly, even at night David would meditate upon his bed too (Ps 63:6). As such, David expected to collect (#6960) on God’s promises. Why? Because he was a servant of the Lord (YHVH) and the Lord *always* pays His servants (after the work is done, of course, Mth 25:14-30). First and foremost, the best payment (reward) we get from following the Lord (YHVH) and His Son (our Shepherd) Jesus Christ, is peace of mind (Isa 26:3, Phil 4:7). And there’s truly nothing better than having peace of mind (and heart) because *nothing* else in life can give it to us. But our Heavenly Father also knows how to bless our relationships in life, be it at work, at home or wherever. That too is something that cannot be bought. And He also knows how to help us ‘kick’ the rocks (problems) out of our life so we don’t stumble at them (fall from grace or faith in Jesus Christ). This too is something that cannot be bought with money. And then, of course, He does know when, and how, to bless us financially - *but* He always does so in a way that won’t cause us to be spiritually corrupted because, as Paul reminds us in 1 Tim 6:10, **the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows**.

So, if we’re truly worshiping the all-mighty God (YHVH) we *will* accept His Son, Jesus Christ as our Savior and King. And we’ll also *eagerly* study His Word – we’ll be anxious to learn how to walk in His ‘way’ because we know it’s the only ‘path’ to eternal life, and to obtain true blessings in the meantime. And while this does take word on our part (2 Time 2:15), it’s an effort that is truly worth while (Heb 11:6) for the end of the ‘path’ leads to *eternal life* - and even the ‘interim’ of walking of the ‘path’ (way) is a peace that passes all understanding (Phil 4:7), along

with protection and blessings that are far better than the ‘path’ (way) of death (following Satan and our carnal mind) brings us.

Psalm 25

6 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

In the next phase of worship, David asks the Lord (YHVH) to ‘remember’ some ‘key’ characteristics of His that are important for the worshiper. Remember, this Psalm also points out the righteousness of the Lord (YHVH) compared to our unrighteousness (unworthiness). And as Paul points out so very well in Rom 3:23, we’ve all sinned and come short (*way* short) of God’s glory. And that’s why David is asking the Lord (YHVH) to ‘remember’ these two key character traits of His. The word ‘remember’ is a prime root that means *to mark* (so as to be recognized), i.e. *to remember* and, by implication, *to mention* (zakar #2142). Now, let’s also ‘remember’, our Heavenly Father *doesn’t* forget who He is *or* what He’s like - *but* He does like it very much when *we remember who He is and what He’s like*, for it shows Him that *we are seeking Him*, which is *part of worshiping Him*. As He said to Israel in Isa 43:26: **Put me in remembrance**: *let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified*. In other words, our Heavenly Father is inviting us to come to Him (in prayer) and remind Him of His promises. He even says ‘let us plead together – meaning, ‘let’s talk about it’. And He even says ‘declare thou’ – meaning, let me know why you think you deserve My help and blessings. And, if we’re honest with ourselves, we really don’t deserve His ‘favor’, or His ‘help’, or His blessings. And we really cannot be ‘justified’ in His eyes any other way than through believing in (and accepting) the precious blood that His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ shed for us. Rom 3:24 says, we are *justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*. Rom 5:1 also tells us that we are *justified by faith*, which means *we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*.

And the reason God called Israel (and us today too) to ‘put Him in remembrance (Isa 43:22) was that they had *not* been calling upon Him, but were ‘weary’ (tired) of Him! In other words, Israel got ‘tired’ of obeying God’s laws... His righteous laws... that He gave them (and us) for their good – not to keep them from having fun. But they had gotten so far removed from Him (reality) they thought sin was ‘fun’ and *didn’t want to seek Him out anymore*. They wanted to follow their carnal mind instead of controlling it and seeking to obey Him sincerely. So again, *that’s why He likes it when we ‘remind’ Him of His Word (and promises in it)* – because it shows that we’re sincerely seeking Him and that we *want a relationship with Him*. That’s understandable, isn’t it? It certainly is, for most all parents want to have relationships with their children and enjoy it when their kids come to them for advice and, or even fellowship. Our Heavenly Father is not different than us, *in that regard*, albeit He is totally *righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works* (Ps 145:17) while we, of course, are not (Rom 3:23).

So then, David asked the Lord (YHVH) to remember His ‘tender mercies’ and ‘lovingkindness’. The words ‘**tender mercies**’ are the Hebrew word *racham* (#7356) and means (in the context of this verse): **compassion** – which is to be sympathetic (and consciousness) of others' distress with

a desire to alleviate it. And the word ‘lovingkindnessess’ is *cheched* (#2617), which means (in the context of this verse): **kindness** – sympathetic, helpful and/or forbearing in nature which arising from sympathy or forbearance. But, it can also mean ‘reproof’, which is befitting also because, as Deut 8:5, Prov 13:24 and Heb 12 point out, our Heavenly Father chastises those who He loves because (let’s be honest with ourselves) we all need it! As Paul says in Heb 12:11, while *no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby*. So, David asks the Lord (YHVH) to remember to have compassion and kindness for him (even when chastising him) ... but *why*? Well, because David *truly worshiped the Lord* (YHVH). David loved Him with all his heart, mind and soul as we all should (Deut 30:6) because in doing so, He helps us to ‘circumcise’ our heart (clean up our carnal mind) so we can live forever with Him. We must never forget that incorrigible rebels cannot live forever, let alone have any inheritance in the Kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-19, Gal 5:21). And, because our Heavenly Father doesn’t want His children to have to die spiritually (Ezek 18, 33, 2 Pt 3:9) He is therefore greatly longsuffering to usward to give us a chance to change from our wicked ways, *which are destroying us*. As 2 Peter 3:9 says, *the Lord is not slack concerning his promise (to punish evil), as some men count slackness (some think He won’t punish evil); but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*.

In other words, God has not sent Jesus Christ back to pour out His ‘cup of wrath’ at the ‘day of vengeance’ yet because He wants all of His children to come through this flesh earth age, in a flesh body, so they can have the opportunity to find grace and mercy through belief in Jesus Christ. For indeed, although we’ve *all sinned and comes short of God’s glory*, we can be *justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus* (Rom 3:23-24). And He sincerely hopes most of His children will, although He knows that not all will. After all, Satan is already sentenced to death (Ezek 28, Rev 20), which is why Jesus Himself said that *none one of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled* (John 17:12). So, part of worshiping our Heavenly Father in ‘spirit and in truth’ (John 4:23-24) is reminding God of his ‘tender mercies’ (compassion) and ‘longingkindnesses’ (kindness) to usward, *because we are sincerely trying to obey Him, and worship Him with all our heart, mind and soul*. Prov 3:5-6 sums this up rather well when it tells us to *trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*.

Now, David also points out that the Lord’s *tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses* have been ‘forever of old’. How true this is! Even from the first earth age, God has shown his *tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses* simply from the fact that He didn’t destroy all His rebellious children ‘right there and then’. Instead, He controlled His emotions (of extreme pain and fierce anger) and used His ‘creative’ skills to devise a plan to save His children from the ‘power of Satan’, which is *his lying tongue* (John 8:44). As Jesus Christ told Paul, his mission was *to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me* (Acts 26:18). This is powerful folks. Not only does God want to ‘save’ His ‘chosen people’ from spiritual death, but *all* people of all races (and genders) everywhere. So indeed, the

Lord's *tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses* have been from 'ever of old' because they have been even from the first earth age and they extend to each and every one of His children that come to this world in a flesh body (John 3, https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_John_and_epistle/43). And that's why we can trust in His *tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses* when we're sincerely striving to do what is required to obtain them. And Jesus beautifully summed up what the requirements are for us...

35 *Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,*
 36 *Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*
 37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*
 38 *This is the first and great commandment.*
 39 *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*
 40 *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*
 Matt 22:35-40

Of all that's written in the 'law and the prophets' Jesus summed it up for us so it should be easy for us to remember!

Psalm 25

7 **Remember** not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy **remember** thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

Now David asks the Lord (YHVH) *not* to remember some things. First of which are the sins of his youth. As anyone who has some 'age' on them knows, it's easy to do stupid things when you are young because you don't have the experience to know better. Plus, most all youngsters think they 'know it all' and that also leads us to do stupid things. That's why the Psalmist of Ps 119:9 says: *wherewithal [how] shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.* While young people have a 'head start' when they are taught God's Word, they still have to learn to understand what obeying God's Word means in their own life as they learn to take on responsibility for themselves. As such, *all* young people will fall short and even do stupid things even when they are well instructed in God's Word in their youth. And that's essentially what David is referring to here. His foolish 'sins of his youth'. But interestingly, the Word of God does not record any of David's sins from his younger years. Instead, we're only told of his 'transgressions' in his older years, *when he was old enough to know better...* like having an affair with Bath-Sheba and then having her husband killed by sending him to the 'front lines' where he would be undoubtedly killed, so David could take Bath-Sheba to wife before anyone would notice she was pregnant when her husband was off fighting a war... So, that's why David continues on to ask God to also not remember his 'transgressions'. And the Hebrew meaning of the word '**transgressions**' is important for it means **a revolt** -national, moral or religious (pesha' #6588 (peh'-shah)). It's prime root (pasha' #6586) means **to break away** (from just authority), i.e. **trespass, apostatize, quarrel**. The *Companion Bible* even says (in apx. 44 xi) this word can also mean **treachery, unfaithfulness** and a **breach of trust**. So, indeed David was speaking of the few

‘transgressions’ he had done when ‘he knew better’ (his affair and murder as well as counting the troops – 2 Sam 11 & 1 Chron 21). And these were times that David not only ‘knew better’, but he actually revolted (rebelled) against God’s Word, because he was unfaithful (disobedient) to God which caused a breach in trust that God had for David. Further, as the Lord (YHVH) pointed out, his doing so gave great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme Him (2 Sam 12:14). We should remember this in times we are tempted; our sinning against God blasphemes His name to others when we claim to be followers of Him.

However, David’s ‘rebellion’ did not last long, for his conscience soon got the better of him (thankfully) and he wholeheartedly repented as 2 Sam 12:13, 1 Chron 21:8 and Psalms 51 tell us. And, while God did forgive David, He also chastised him (for his good) and allowed these ‘transgressions’ to be written in His Word to teach us what happens when we sin. For David’s transgressions didn’t only impact himself. On account of his sins, not only did his child conceived out of wedlock (from the affair) die, but the nation began to doubt his ability to rule. So much so that, eventually, they rebelled against him; even anointing *his own son* to be king *instead*. And while God did eventually restore David to the throne, it was not without a lot of heartache, trials and tribulations – not just for him but also for his family and those who remained loyal to him. So, it’s good to remember that while the Lord (YHVH) is compassionate and kind in forgiving us, He also very good at chastising us to help us turn our heart and mind completely back to Him. It took those hard times for David to continue to cleanse his heart and mind, *even after he had repented*. This is a very good lesson for us. We shouldn’t expect all our troubles (that *we* have caused) to *instantly* go away after we have repented. But if we *continue* in the ‘way’ and ‘path’ that God has given us (in His Word) then He will indeed bless us, just as He did for David. And this is why David further says in this verse *according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness’ sake, O LORD*. David asked God to remember him according to His mercy and **for His ‘goodness’ sake**. Mercy is ‘not getting what we deserve’ but, as the Hebrew definition (#2617) declares, it can also involve *reproof* (chastisement). So, God’s mercy can be in giving us a *lesser punishment* than we deserve - as was the case in David’s sake, for he truly deserved to die; not only for his affair with a married woman but also for his having her husband killed. This is why God, through the prophet Nathan, told David he wouldn’t die but then told him what God’s (*lesser*) ‘sentence’ (punishment) would be for David’s affair (and subsequent murder of her husband) (2 Sam 12:13).

But, why would David ask ‘remember’ him **for His ‘goodness’ sake**? The Hebrew word for ‘goodness’ is *tuwb* (#2898), which means: **good** (as a noun), **goodness**, **beauty**, **gladness**, and even **welfare**. This tells us that **God forgives us for His ‘welfare’**. This is explained very clearly in other Scriptures...

31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Ezek 18:31-32

*Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?***

Ezek 33:11

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

2 Peter 3:9

Our Heavenly Father truly *doesn't want anyone* to have to die *because **He loves us.*** After all, He created us for His pleasure (Rev 4:11). So, He is trying hard to help us turn back to Him – in faith, love and obedience (from the heart) – so we don't have to die. It is a part of the very core of His nature (His character) to be *merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy* (Ps 103:8) and that's why He is not only *merciful and gracious* but also *longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth* (Ex 34:6). For, as Prov 16:6 explains: *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.* So, not only is the Lord's 'good name' (YHVH) known by His mercy, grace, longsuffering, goodness and truth - but He also **truly desires to save His children.** So much so that He sent His only begotten Son to earth just to die for our sins, so we don't have to die spiritually. [Learn more about **How Much God Loves us** with this special study: <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344>]. And, as the famous verse in John says...

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:16-17

For, as Jesus Himself said, *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13). Paul explains this too...

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

*8 But **God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

Rom 5:6-8

And John takes this one step further...

*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and **we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.***

1 John 3:16

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

1 John 4:19-21

So, as God loved us so much to lay down His life for us – meaning, ***He manifested His love for us through the physical death of Jesus Christ*** – we too should show Him *how much we love Him* by ‘laying down’ our life (our carnal mind and even our flesh life if need be) for Him. And not only for Him, but also for His other children. *That’s true love. That’s the quality our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is working to develop in us, so we can live forever with Him.* So, within this Psalm, that teaches us about how *true* worshipers worship the Lord (YHVH) – who truly is worthy of our total love and devotion and worship – we see the concept of forgiveness (and the terms for it) being developed in this great Psalm. And it all rests upon the fact that our Heavenly Father – our Creator – *truly loves us*. And that’s something we truly are *not* deserving of. And, therefore, we should learn to love (and forgive others) even if they don’t ‘deserve it’ (in our eyes), for He loves, and forgives us, *even though we truly don’t deserve it*. And we can be assured (and comforted) of this one thing: nothing – absolutely nothing – can separate us from His eternal love for us...

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

*38 For I am persuaded, that **neither** death, **nor** life, **nor** angels, **nor** principalities, **nor** powers, **nor** things present, **nor** things to come,*

*39 Nor height, **nor** depth, **nor** any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Rom 8:35-39

We’ll pick this up in part 3...

AMEN.