

## Affliction Reminds Us of the Goodness of God's Word

### Psalms 119:65-72

Group <sup>1</sup>	C	V	Description
Teth	119	65-72	Affliction reminds us of the goodness of God's word to teach and lead

#### Reflections

This is a beautiful section on how God's word is truly the only source for learning "good discernment and knowledge" especially in the face of adversity. This discernment and knowledge is able to help us avoid going astray and to identify adversarial situations as they come up.

The outline of this section of the psalm is as follows.

- The goodness of God and the benefits of studying God's Word – v65-66
- Acknowledgment of personal sin and return to God's Word – v67-68
- Afflictions at the hands of others contrasted with a desire to be faithful – v69-70
- Rejoicing in affliction which led to deeper appreciation for God's Word – v71-72

It is important to note the focus of the second half of each verse is on God's word related to the first half in verses 65-71 and then how much God's word can become worth to those who commit to keeping it in verse 72.

#### Psalms 119:65-72 NASB u Teth.

65	You have dealt well with Your servant,	O LORD, according to Your word.
66	Teach me good discernment and knowledge,	For I believe in Your commandments.
67	Before I was afflicted I went astray,	But now I keep Your word.
68	You are good and do good;	Teach me Your statutes.
69	The arrogant have forged a lie against me;	With all <i>my</i> heart I will observe Your precepts.
70	Their heart is covered with fat,	<i>But</i> I delight in Your law.
71	It is good for me that I was afflicted,	That I may learn Your statutes.
72	The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver <i>pieces</i> .	

Notice the contrasts of the psalmist going astray in v67 and the goodness of God in v68. Also notice the contrasts at play in v69-70 of the afflicter's actions and heart and the psalmist's commitment to following God's laws.

This would be a good passage to meditate (chew) on, allowing its meaning to sink deep into our souls and help us come to appreciate God's word as much as the psalmist does.

**Key Words:** Old Testament, Wisdom, Psalms, Word, Commandments, Statutes, Precepts, Law, Discernment, Knowledge



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<sup>1</sup> (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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### *Bibliography*

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*(NASB) New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.