

A Light unto My Path

By: Lenny Chapman

Most of us have experienced a time when the electric (power) has been lost. Perhaps it occurred while you were in a room without a window, or maybe even at night? These are the times we quickly understand the importance of light. Hopefully you had strategically placed a flashlight or a candle with matches close to your spot of fixed immovability. If not, and a source of light is not nearby, your mind quickly tries to draw a picture of how things are arranged in the room as you plan to make a “break for it” and move toward a place of safety, one with a light source. Slowly you proceed, feeling your way along, until the light source has been found. Ah, what a relief as the light source now lights my path! My walk now has a confidence and swiftness about it as I no longer feel the threat of danger. No longer do I worry that I may hurt myself as I continue through the house. Yes, I can deal with the fact that my refrigerator is not working, I can deal with the fact that I will miss my favorite show on the television tonight, because I now feel safe with the light to guide my path.

This is much like the psalmist writer felt as he wrote about the Words of God and the safety they provided him. As we read, it is easy for one to understand that the confidence and comfort he desired beheld him only while he was obedient to God’s precepts. ***“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. I have sworn and confirmed That I will keep Your righteous judgments. I am afflicted very much; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your word. Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Lord, And teach me Your judgments. My life is continually in my hand, Yet I do not forget Your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts. Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, to the very end.”*** (Psalm 119:105-112).



Very important are the words he used when saying that, ***“Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever.”*** The psalmist expresses that he is set apart from the world and that he is a partaker of God’s promises. We too should feel this way. Even though God’s light may lead us through the world, we are not part of the world. We are here with a purpose, and that purpose is to help others come to the understanding of our heavenly Father, the one true God. Our steps should be led solely by the word of God. It is by His words that we will not be led astray. It is by His words that we will be led to everlasting life, saved from this world and all its corruption.

Before flying, airplane attendants come on the speakers to review safety procedures. During those announcements it is said that, *“in case of an emergency, lower-level floor lighting will appear to guide you to the exits.”* Interesting, isn’t it? Just as the psalmist wrote, ***“The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not strayed from your precepts,”*** we can begin to see similarities in the airline attendant’s message and that of the psalmist. We will have turbulence in our lives, there will be those who try to lay snares for us, there will be tests of our faith by God, and the only way to see our way through and to avoid failing is to guide our steps with God’s word, the same that lights our path. We must be diligent to this guide as it is only good to us if we use it.

In the 73rd psalm we read these words, ***“Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord,***

when You awake, You shall despise their image. Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.” (Psalm 73:17-25). Let God’s word be the light unto your path. He can guide even a beast to life eternal, as heir to the promise, and to a home in paradise!