

## **Psalms 19-06-27b**

Let's pick up our study now in Psalm 119. We have arrived at verse 100 Which says I understand more than the ancients Wow Puffs my head up just reading it. I Understand more than the ancients because I keep your precepts well Once again, we have because this is the main strophe we have the first word in the verse is ms Karneam and the Zuck Zakhan this has the idea of the elders the the older ones and I read various Takes on this they were saying well if you're talking about national Israel, they're talking about Wisdom from ancient times if you're talking about a single Israelite and it's personal then he's just talking about the elders of his day but Actually, sometimes when you ask yourself the question, well, is it the contemporary elders or is it the ancient wisdom? Yes, it so often is the case it can be both Depending on the situation, but once again just as we saw in the preceding verse Instead of saying I'm smarter than the elders.

I'm smarter than the ancient wisdom because I've got my Bible this says from the ancients rather than more than But from the elders or from the ancient ones or the you know Traditions that go back. I understand because I keep your precepts and again, this is not a in my view and You know, I'm as usual or as is often the case at least standing out here in unbroken snow I couldn't find anybody that agrees with me. So I can't say well, it's it's me and You know Kyle and Dalish or it's me and Briggs or me and driver or me and anybody but This is a perfectly legitimate Translation and this is what I think it is getting across from my teachers I get more out of it because of the spiritual context from elders teachers are teaching knowledge elders are imparting experience and tradition and What happened last time, you know, it's There is Practical knowledge.

There's factual knowledge What I should say is that in the preceding verse we had more like factual knowledge teachers teach you the facts they teach you You know practical procedures for getting things done. Here's how to You know Dissect a frog or whatever if you have a teacher in biology, but the elders or the ancients or the the ones who have gone before This is experience this so whether it is the voice of science or it's the voice of experience tradition You're going to get more out of it Why? because in one case Your testimonies are my meditation in the next case, it's because I keep your precepts and You can ask yourself the question I asked myself this question and I don't always have a good answer But I ask anyway, I asked myself Why is it that there seems to be a tendency on a part of younger generations to want to Do it different than their parents did it didn't always work that way for generations in Europe for generations in Native American culture for generations in in earlier days People respected their elders. They were brought up.

You know, you had all these businesses that were you know, O'Reilly and son Smith and son And the son would learn the trade from his father would apprentice take over the business and you used to have businesses like CF Martin making guitars where the Martin family is still that they're like five generations down now from the from CF and Doing it the way the fathers did it,

you know not moving the old landmark Remember, there's a verse that says God talking to Israel remember the stone from which you were hewn and the pit from which you were digged Remember your roots remember where you come from and in many cases There's nothing wrong with the old ways and it seems that in in modern and postmodern times that it's changed for changes sake I promise you there's no practical advantage to pushing your pants down below your natural waistline and Having the crotch of those pants closer to your knees than it is to your waist. That's just change for its own sake I don't want to wear my shorts the way the previous generation wore their shorts I don't want to wear my pants the way somebody else wore them. I don't want to keep my Boxers covered up I want them to fluff out like a muffin at the top of my pants that I've got pushed down To wear on my pants the bottom of my pockets is well, that's where their waist is I you know, it's not practical.

You got to bend over to get your change out of your pocket They don't want to stay up they don't wear suspenders because suspenders is old It's changed for its own sake music often changes just Different for differences sake I'm gonna look different hairstyles You know every you cannot shock anybody. I don't care what you do to your hair You could singe it off. You can shave half your hair.

You can shave shapes into it You can dye it any color of the rainbow. I Promise you there is nothing you can do to your hair and then go out in public and anybody's gonna look at you twice Because well Change is good. That's different You can you can dress up like bozo the clown and go into the mall.

Nobody's gonna look at you twice They don't even know who bozo is anymore so What this verse is referring to is I can benefit and appreciate From the experience and the wisdom of those who have gone before not only is God teaching me wisdom through my Distresses through my oy vey moments and I'm gaining personal firsthand experience, but I can appreciate what teachers teach me and the common Wisdom of the past history, you know the saw that says those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it well, you you look at people who are embracing running with open arms and balloons and and confetti towards socialism in in this country this next election a bunch of the candidates that I Understand they had some sort of a half of them I guess the the lower tier had a debate last night and maybe the higher tiers having a debate tonight to me It's just tears spelled a different way I don't really have any interest in it, but a number of those candidates openly unabashedly and verbally vocally avowedly emphatically enthusiastically are calling for socialism in Our government they want to move it to be as socialist as possible Are you kidding me? Do do you know anything about every previous attempt to implement socialism as a government? It didn't just fail it was cataclysmically catastrophically disastrously murderously awful It has never worked it cannot work it's worse than an amway scheme you're gonna end up with a few people at the top that have got all the stuff and you're gonna have a bunch of Work, you know all about the proletariat and the bourgeois and all the rest of it And and yet it is as though history has vanished and what a great idea It's gonna be a rising tide that will float all boats and well, let's just give people money without working We'll just have a guaranteed minimum income for

everybody. If you don't have a job the government will write you a check People are seriously Unblinking Lee unsmilingly saying if I become president this this is my one of the planks in my platform is We're gonna have guaranteed minimum income for everybody and don't feel like working quit We'll mail you a check that way you'll have groceries and you can you know Buy all the drugs you want to use or whatever it is. They're going to do well we by not only having God's Word Benefit from teachers who teach truth but by Keeping God's Precepts remember the Pukud the Pukud name we talked about when we're looking at these synonyms this is to Keep and it doesn't just mean to obey or abide by This means to preserve to treasure.

It means to guard or watch over So look at this verse From the elders from the knowledge of the past gained by experience people that went before me. I Understand I've got understanding. I got I've got wisdom from God that I learned personally.

I've got Understanding here because not just I obey your laws this is I treasure your precepts and In the same way that I blend Knowledge from my teachers with the divine perspective that comes from God's Word Traditional wisdom Experiential wisdom anecdotal wisdom that comes from those who have gone before gets woven into my soul because I've got God's precepts in there and I treasure them. I watch over them. I guard them I don't let them slip away because they're not trendy or they're not popular or they're not in fashion anymore.

I treasure them and That allows me to see the good in tradition. Do I want to be a traditional racist? No, do I want to be a traditional? fear-mongering red scare type of guy No, do I want to be bigoted and insensitive and trample the rights and the feelings of others? No, how do I know that those parts of the American cultural past are not good? It isn't just because I Follow the Ten Commandments. It's because I treasure the precepts of the Word of God and those things would have never prevailed in parts of the American South or anywhere else if Believers had treasured God's precepts and looked to the goodness That God demanded of his people all the way back in the ancient day they were not to persecute and Demean and defraud and punish and and kill people that Came under their power by conquest or by divine grace in giving them the land They were to treat him fairly they there were a lot of protective ordinances in the law.

Well if you Guard and keep God's precepts You're going to take the best of what's been learned in the past and weave it into present practice and present judgment and present support Who do you vote for? Well, you're gonna have the ability to easily discern who comes closest to Following that divine pattern of priorities and values and judgments So from the ancients I get understanding From my teachers I get additional knowledge. I Get teaching and and it's it's amplified that's verse 100 and Notice in both of these cases we get understanding and This is the same word if you remember we had this back in verse 95 in in the the Lama section the wicked wait for me to destroy me, but I will consider your testimonies and They translate this in other versions ponder or you know reflect on or whatever. It's Understand The wicked wait for me to destroy me, but I will understand your testimonies.

I will concentrate on making sense of What God has done in the past testimony is witness of the

past. That's what the ancients will give you That's what the elders will give you it's testimony to what God has done in the past If we wait on the Lord and be of good cheer He will strengthen our hearts if we do this on a cash basis We don't put God on the spot by making a commitment when we don't see the means we could say Oh, well, let's commit to build a new building or let's commit to you know Reupholster the pews in the sanctuary or let's commit to to some big expense when we don't have it. We'll just trust God for it well The elders the ancients will tell you why don't you wait to commit until you see that God has committed by making provision Look for the provision and the support first then step out You can still trust God for it But trust him in advance and don't make a personal commitment and now God is on the hook to make good on your promise or your pledge or your Contract or your loan that you took out you say well, I don't really know how I'm gonna pay for it But I'm sure it's God's will well don't do that The ancients and the elders will tell you if it's God's will God is going to show you that there's provision Ahead of time and it's not the part of faith to put God to the test tight as one example so I Have more understanding from my teachers because your testimonies are my meditation I Understand from the elders from the ancient traditions Because I treasure your precepts I guard and keep them Look at verse 101.

I have restrained my feet from every evil way in order that I may keep your word and Once again, you can imagine that the from is going to be the first word here from every way of evil This is McCall. This is from all ways of evil I have restrained my feet and And Why would you have to restrain your feet maybe the natural inclination of your feet is to go that way and you have to Hold them back it this has the implication or the connotation of a natural impulse It would be a natural thing to walk this way you look at a mountain and there seems to be an easy path and there seems to be a difficult path and You say well my feet want to take the easy path but that might be the way of evil so From every way of evil. I have restrained my feet For the purpose that and this is a really strong Phrase in Hebrew.

I have a purpose in restraining my feet from these evil ways and It isn't because I think I might get caught or I might have a bad outcome or Somebody might think less of me. What is my purpose in? Restraining my feet from going the way they might want to go down an evil path The purpose is That I may keep your word That I may keep your word Now you remember in the preceding? Verse we had a word that meant to keep and it's it's It's not SAR to guard to watch over to preserve to protect from danger You hover over a thing and make sure nothing happens to it This is also translated keep but it's a little bit different word this is To give heed to To be a watchman not so much in the sense of Guarding but more in the sense of watching over and Waiting for it and observing it. It's it's a little bit different shade of meaning.

I'm gonna keep my feet out of every evil way so that I can Concentrate on might be a good Translation here concentrate on your word and this Dove our DAB AR Translated word here can be a speech or a word but it focuses on the content I can say you know The word for meat in Spanish is carne Well, that's talking about a word, but if I say I have a word from the Lord for you tonight I've got a message. It's a con. It's a concept and this here is word in the sense of a matter a case a Subject So this is the content of God's Word I'm not going to be able to Pay

attention to and concentrate on God's Word if my feet are busy running down an evil path It's going to interfere with my concentration so Can you? Be distracted.

Can you be? engaged in a pattern of Evil and still benefit from the study of God's Word This verse says no if you want to soak in God's Word if you want to observe it Treasure it Benefit from it treat it with the as the valuable thing that it is as the treasure that it is You can't let your feet go down evil paths feet walking down evil paths Messes up your concentration on God's Word. That's what first 101 says So if you want to be the person That can come before the Lord and say how do I love your law? Here's how I keep my feet from going on evil paths so that I can concentrate on it so that I can better Understand it so that I can treasure it and appreciate it This this has the idea of looking at a thing and appreciating it realizing its value Can't do that if your feet are busy walking you down some other path God's Word is over here This path is going to leave God's Word evil always does or it'll twist it. It'll distort it.

It'll corrupt it it will Amalgamate it and Amalgamated truth is no longer true And this is Satan's favorite trick hath God not said you may eat of every tree That's part of what God said Partial truth is the first Exit off of the narrow way through the straight gate that brings us to verse 102. I Have not departed from your judgments for you yourself have taught me and Once again, you can imagine that the word from in there is the first one here so that you have another main word from your judgments I Have not departed and it basically means to not turn aside To allow yourself to be removed from it and these are God's Mishpatim his Applications of truth From your view of what is right, and what is wrong from your judgment about a situation So for us if we are looking at God's judgments God's determinations God's implementation of his righteousness that for us is what we call applying the Word of God and The Application making judgments about what should I do? What should I not do? What should I prioritize? What should I let slide? What are my values going to be which value is going to out? weigh other values I Care for my employment, but I care for my family more and I care for God even more than that. I Would like to be in a particular location, but this location may not be conducive it keeps Letting my feet go down a path of evil and if I want to get my feet restrained so that I can focus on pleasing God and Treasuring his word and valuing it and concentrating on it.

Maybe I need to change a habit Maybe I need to change a location. Maybe I need to change Just the route by which I get from point A to point B From your judgments from the application of your truth examples of God doing it examples of faithful people in the Bible doing it from the judgments of God the Application of God's truth. I have not turned aside I've not let myself be removed or taken away or put away or deposed This can mean to leave undone or to retract Why because when it says for this is key this is our cough Conjunction again because You and This is the emphatic Pronoun here.

He says a ta you yourself you yourself have taught me and What's interesting here? Is this word means to? throw or shoot It's to throw a rock or to shoot an arrow or to cast this is to take a thing and Heave it in some way to throw shoot cast poor It's used for shooting arrows to throw water the God throwing water and making it rain In the in the in the passive it means to be shot

somebody threw something at you or somebody shot an arrow at you, but From your judgments, I have not turned aside because you yourself have Moved me you've shot me you've thrown me and what does this mean? It's in one of its very low Usages it is to direct or teach or instruct but this has the idea really of to Move in a direction. We would say motivate you have Motivated me you have directed me you have put me where I am you picked me up and shot me like an arrow into a particular target you picked me up like a stone and Threw me into a particular place. You have used me by moving me That's what this verb means I'm not going to depart from your applications because you're the one that put me here You shot me like an arrow into this situation.

You threw me like a rock into these circumstances and If you've put me here, the last thing I want to do is not make application of your truth your righteousness So it goes beyond teach we had teaching up above from the Instructors and from the elders. This is more a Movement verb you pick me up and and cast me You shot me you poured me to where I am and Because you put me here. I Want to fulfill the purpose and I cannot depart from your judgments and accomplish that purpose well verse 103 Second-to-last how sweet are your words to my taste sweeter than honey to my mouth and once again Just like we did at the beginning.

You remember in previous stanzas. We saw that there was seven verses and then an eighth seven plus one Well, look at the symmetry here because the first verse and the seventh verse both start with the same word ma Right, and we said how question mark, right? So how sweet are your words to my taste? It's a question It's not an exclamation in my view and you know translators of many different versions will Do it kind of like this but ma is a word that means what? No Israelite could hear the word ma and not think of mana mana, what is it? So What is the sweetness of your word to my taste? It's like honey to my mouth he's answering his question How sweet is your word? It's honey the sweetest substance in the ancient world They didn't have CNH pure cane sugar from Hawaii. They didn't have You have to be old to appreciate that They didn't have saccharin they didn't have neutral sweet or aspartame the sweetest thing in the ancient world was honey and God's Word is Sweeter than honey.

It is like honey to my mouth So how sweet to my taste are your words? Honey to my mouth. It's like honey in my mouth And if you think about it because you've got a symmetry there of the first verse in the seventh verse You can you can do an interesting? chiastic crawl by comparing the second verse and the sixth verse and The third verse in the fifth verse and right in the center you have the wisdom of the elders Makes sense to me Because I treasure your precepts and then you get the bonus verse at the end 104 Through your precepts I get understanding notice in that in that chiasm Verse 100 is at the center of a chiasm in verses 1 through 7. I understand the ancient wisdom from The elders from the old ones from the past from what has gone before I understand Because I treasure your precepts your precepts make sense of history and of experience Now look at verse 104. It's going to like we've seen in the past.

It's going to reiterate Some of that that's at the center of the chiasm Through your precepts I get understanding the most important concept in this main section is Look at the value I get

from the Word of God. I Get understanding Therefore I hate every false way. How can I restrain my feet from evil? I've got a natural disinclination Toward false ways I can walk a true path you look at the different Benefits that he ascribes to God's law and as we gain that experience as we gain the benefit and the blessing that comes from Being on the narrow road leading to the straight gate of life We become less and less susceptible to the false way and We know what the true way is like I was a heading over to a piano that I've tuned once before Yesterday and I knew that it was north and about 15 miles west of a Certain starting point from here you go north a ways, and then you got to go 10 miles After you've already gone about five miles.

You got to go ten miles straight west to get there Well, I remembered that and I typed in the address looked at Google map And it said yeah, I go north and then go ten miles west I thought okay fine So I just put the phone in the holder and said all right mrs. Google. Take me there So she says all right go to Ulaga go a couple miles turn left I had the ten mile run and She says all right turn left But I began to look around and I had been to this house before and I've got a pretty good visual memory But nothing looked familiar, and I got more and more the sensation. I don't care what mrs. Google says this just isn't right.

This is not the right way. I know what the right way is like I've been on the right way the right way is a friend of mine, and you are not the right way and I ended up on some little gravel road Looking at somebody's house that I've never seen in my life saw some great scenic Views of that part of Oklahoma, but I wasn't I was about 12 miles south of where I was supposed to be because I Turned west way too soon supposed to go past to Lala and all the way up to what Tova and then take a left and once I Remembered I thought oh yeah, I went through what Tova last time Why did I turn just north of Ulaga I wouldn't even out of Ulaga and I turned west because mrs. Google Shameless wench sent me sent me in the wrong direction and It was the right address, but it was the address for Collinsville not the address for Ramona And I told mrs. Google Ramona, but she said well you probably really mean Collinsville And she didn't there is a familiarity that comes with exposure to the right way And you may not know the names of the roads you may not know the Who runs the businesses you may not know who lives in the houses But you recognize the right way because you regularly travel it and that's what this last verse talks about your precepts through your precepts I get understanding and Therefore thus I Am disinclined I hate I Have no interest in every false way You get used to the good way if you've ever gone off of Something like sugar or salt or whatever else and then you suddenly get a dose of it Did you notice how you you're much more sensitive to it because you haven't had it in a long time I went off sugar years ago, and somebody handed me I asked for unsweetened tea, but they brought sweetened tea and when I Sipped it. I just it almost made me sick.

It was so sweet Because I've just been off sugar forever, and I no longer even like sugar Once I went to Japan and had really great unsweetened tea. I just never wanted sweetened tea again haven't haven't drunk it since Except when somebody slips it to me unawares I hate every sweetened tea I hate every false way because I am accustomed to and I enjoy the benefits of The right way I've gotten understanding through your picudine your precepts well, that's the

main section and the letter M in Hebrew is the first word The first letter in the word my game, and it means waters. I didn't just get the ghost there.

I got a fruit fly My name waters, and it means that which is mighty that which is great that which has power Nothing could wipe out the world the way the flood did The the mighty waters. This is something that man could never hope to tame And so in this section we find that this hymn of praise to God's truth God's precepts God's Judgments God's law God's Word That's where the power is this is the power stanza If you want power for now if you want power for the future if you want power over confusing circumstances They don't make sense it doesn't compute why would God let this happen the power is in treasuring God's truth That is what gives us perspective. That is what fuels our faith That is what partakes of God's power puts it in our souls and prepares us for eternity So it's a wonderful section to reflect on didn't get to noon this time and one of the first Verses any child in my day would memorize with Psalm 119 105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light into my path and that is where we will pick up next time But let's close here in a word of prayer father, thank you for the wonderful truth of your word and how fully and in such detail it addresses our daily needs our experience the Circumstances that we face the ups and downs that are a part of life in a fallen world with a corrupt nature and with our inevitable shortcomings, but your grace is Greater than all our sin your provision is greater than our weakness your plan and purpose take us and weave us into your plan for good and for your glory and our benefit we are Grateful for the Lord Jesus Christ whose Death on the cross made it possible for us to partake of all of these wonderful potentials and blessings Opportunities and future rewards.

We pray that God the Holy Spirit will make us mindful all through the day of the pertinence and the applicability of your truth to everything that we do all of our Circumstances all of our requirements our tasks the things that Cause our Day to move forward and our time to pass So that we can redeem the time even though the days are evil and invest it in Eternity and in future service in the wisdom that we can take with us from this life into the next we pray all these things In Jesus name. Amen