

## (Het)

- 57) The Lord is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words.
- 58) I entreated Your favor with all my heart; Be gracious to me according to Your word.
- 59) I considered my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies.
- 60) I hastened and did not delay to keep Your commandments.
- 61) The cords of the wicked have encircled me, But I have not forgotten Your law.
- 62) At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You Because of Your righteous ordinances.
- 63) I am a companion of all those who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.
- 64) The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes.

We come now to our eighth section of the 119<sup>th</sup> Psalm which is the eight letter of the Hebrew alphabet, “het” or “h.” As we have been teaching, this is a Psalm that is designed to magnify the written Word of God. Every part of this Psalm is designed to exalt God’s written Word.

Now it is clear that the writer of this Psalm would cling to the Word of God no matter what He faced. No matter what he faced, he stayed focused on the Word of God.

Now this text is critical because the writer begins in **verse 57** by saying that “the Lord is my portion.” That word “portion” is one that would mean something to Israel. It typically referred to the part or portion of inherited land (Deut. 10:9; 12:12; 14:27, 29; 18:1-9) (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 284). This was a real source of security. God had vowed to give the land to Israel and when someone got their portion, it was a tremendous sense of security and privilege.

Now this writer begins this section by saying, “my portion; my security is the LORD, Himself.” God is the portion. Now the remaining verses give evidences for why the writer can say that.

**GOD IS THE GUARANTEED PORTION AND SECURITY FOR ONE WHO PUTS GOD AND HIS WORD FIRST IN HIS LIFE.**

No one can rob God’s people from this reality. One who is focused on God’s Word is one who lays up treasures in heaven that neither moth nor rust can corrupt and where thieves cannot break in and steal. When we are right with God, we don’t just have a portion, we have a “very large portion.” We have an eternal portion and treasure.

Now there are about eleven ingredients in this text for one who will have this kind of relationship with God:

**INGREDIENT #1** – God is the portion for one who promises to keep His words. **119:57b**

The one who has a right relationship with God is one who is focused on keeping and guarding the “words” of God. Now this assumes that this person truly believes the “words” of Scripture are inspired and need to be taken very seriously. One who has God as his portion will be very committed to the written “words” of God.

One who has God as his portion is resolved to keep and obey God’s Word. There is no better focus of life.

**INGREDIENT #2** – God is the portion for one who seeks God’s favor with all his heart.  
**119:58a**

Obviously one who has God as his portion thinks much about God’s grace. With all of his heart he zeroes in on God’s grace. Now the idea of seeking God’s favor is the idea of seeking a face-to-face relationship with God that is favorable (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 679).

Notice it is not seeking the favor of self or others that matters; it is seeking the favor of God. People who have God as their portion magnify the Word of God and the grace of God.

**INGREDIENT #3** – God is the portion for one who carefully considers his ways. **119:59a**

People who will have God as their portion will be people who think very carefully about where they are going and what they are doing.

The word “consider” is one that refers to careful meditative thinking and computation (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 311). This word emphasizes a serious mental calculation that is accurate. This is not some fictional analysis, but factual analysis.

God is the portion for one who thinks very seriously about his ways of life. One who has God as his portion thinks seriously and soberly about one’s own direction.

**INGREDIENT #4** – God is the portion for one who walks in the direction of God’s Word.  
**119:59b**

John Phillips said concerning **verse 59**, first there is deliberation—we think about things and then think about our destination—we want to move in God’s direction and then there is determination in that we determine to walk in the ways of God (*Psalms*, Vol. 2, p. 315).

This ingredient is closely connected to the previous one. One who has God as his portion is one who will think carefully about his direction in life and then turn his feet to walk in the direction of the Word of God. **There needs to be a turning point in which we want God to be our portion.**

One will be willing to analyze his life openly and honestly and then made adjustments and changes. In any area of life, he will be willing to turn his feet toward the word of God. In a day when many run away from God's Word, the one who has God as his portion will run to God's Word.

**INGREDIENT #5** – God is the portion for one who makes immediate decisions to keep God's Word. **119:60**

One right with God does not fool around when he sees something that isn't right in his own life. He will be quick to respond to God's Word. He doesn't dilly-dally. Someone has said, "procrastination is the thief of time." I think this is such a critical point that goes against the grain of most of the counseling world.

The assumption of this verse is that it is possible to immediately respond to God's Word and have victory. You do not have to drag this out into some major struggle or ordeal. Most people are slow to apply God's Word to their lives. But the one who actually has God as his portion is quick to apply it.

There will be undoubtedly many people in hell who will say, "I was almost persuaded."

Robert Laidlaw, in his booklet "The Reason Why" writes:

"Tomorrow" he promised his conscience.

Tomorrow I mean to believe.

Tomorrow I'll think as I ought to

Tomorrow the Savior receive.

Tomorrow I'll conquer those habits

Which hold me from heaven away

But ever God's Spirit insisted

One word and one only–TODAY.

Those who have God as their portion respond to God when they are convicted.

**INGREDIENT #6** – God is the portion for one who does not forget God's Word in a wicked world. **119:61**

God's people live in a wicked world and they are surrounded by wicked things. Those wicked things are designed to entangle, ensnare and enslave.

The one, who has God as his portion, remembers the Word of God in such entangling moments. He does not forget about the Word of God, but in fact remembers it.

Spurgeon used to say when you find yourself in some time of trouble, remember what God's Word says will happen to those who will obey Him and those who don't.

**INGREDIENT #7** – God is the portion for one who thanks God for His Word at all times.

**119:62**

Believers who have God as their portion thank God for His precious Word at all times. Even at night. Those who are right with God are always thankful for the precious gift of the Word of God.

Now midnight was often considered to be a metaphorical and literal time of judgment and death (Job 34:20; Ex. 12:29). So no matter what is happening, the believer who has God as his portion will always thank God for His Word.

God loves it when His people thank Him for His Word. It must thrill His heart when He sees His people lying down on a bed and thanking Him for His Word at midnight. Now carefully observe from the verse that one actually rises at midnight to thank God for His Word. What gets you up at night? Well one of the best things you can do when you are up is take a moment to thank God for His Word.

Many people have a difficult time sleeping. There are many things that keep people awake. People can be kept awake by the cares of the world. People can be kept awake by worrying about someone or something. People can be kept awake by an evil conscience or by guilt. But when we are awake at midnight, one of the best things we can do is praise and thank God for His Word.

God's Word is right and righteous and true.

**INGREDIENT #8** – God is the portion for one who associates with all those who fear Him.

**119:63a**

People right with God gravitate to other people right with God. People right with God have a fear and reverence for God. Their view of God is not light and fluffy. There is a kindred spirit among people who have this focus.

In many ways we may determine whether we have God as our portion by the company we keep. There is a true comradeship among those who fear the Lord. We are typically drawn to people who have similar interests.

Those who have God as their portion have similar interests in that they fear the Lord.

**INGREDIENT #9** – God is the portion for one who associates with those who keep His precepts. **119:63b**

One who has a close relationship with God is drawn together with others who love God's Word and desire to keep it and obey it. Birds of a feather do flock together and people who love God and His Word gravitate to each other.

One commentator writes: “Shun the company that shuns God and keep the company that God keeps. Look on the society of the carnal or profane as infectious, but reckon serious, praying persons the excellent ones of the earth. Such will serve to quicken you when dead and warm you when cold. Make the liveliest of God’s people your greatest intimates, and see their love and likeness to Christ be the great motive of your love to them, more than their love or likeness to you” (J. Wilson, *Spurgeon on Psalms*, p. 534).

**INGREDIENT #10** – God is the portion for one who recognizes the earth is full of the Mercy of God. **119:64a**

Notice the lovingkindness and mercy of God is seen all over the world. One who has God as his portion recognizes this. He sees the mercy of God in all things. He sees the mercy of God in creation, the birth of a baby, in the provisions of God, in the food, in the water and, most importantly, in salvation.

**INGREDIENT #11** – God is the portion of one who wants to be taught God’s Word. **119:64b**

People, who have God as their portion, love the Word of God and they love to be taught the Word of God. They love to read it, study it, listen to it and learn it. They are quick to apply it.

These are the ingredients of one who has God as his portion. These are the ingredients of one who is right with God.