

The Divine Inspector

The Hebrew word for “precepts” is *piqud*, occurring twenty-four times in the Bible. All the references are in the Psalms, with all but three of them occurring in Psalm 119. The meaning of the root of the word is “to oversee.” Precepts are the conditions of the job description that a supervisor develops for employees. They are specific. Yet much different from what often happens between bosses and workers, there is here a sense of affection and comfort the psalmist finds in his God, along with a joyful experience of protection that one rarely finds in the business world.

Are there some specific precepts that God is enjoining upon you for your spiritual growth in the Lord? Scan your life. What does your divine supervisor have to say?

Ayin y

- 121 I have dóne what is júst and ríght;
do not léave me to my fóes.
- 122 Garantée the well-béing of your sérvant;
let not the próud oppréss me.
- 123 My eyes grow wéary as I wáitch for your salvátion,
and for your prómise of jústice.
- 124 Treat your sérvant with mérciful lóve,
and téach me your státutes.
- 125 I am your sérvant; gíve me understánding:
then I shall knów your decreés.
- 126 It is tíme for the LÓRD to áct,
for your láw has been bróken.
- 127 That is why I lóve your commánds
more than fínest góld,
- 128 why I rúle my lífe by your précepts,
and háte false wáys.

- 129 Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
- 130 The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.
- 131 I have opened my mouth and I sigh,
for I yearn for your commands.
- 132 Turn and have mercy on me,
as is your rule for those who love your name.
- 133 Let my steps be guided by your promise;
may evil never rule me.
- 134 Redeem me from man's oppression,
and I will keep your precepts.
- 135 Let your face shine forth on your servant,
and teach me your decrees.
- 136 My eyes shed streams of tears,
because of those who have not kept your law.

Tsade x

- 137 Yóu are júst, O LÓRD;
your júdgments are úpright.
- 138 You have impósed your decreés with jústice,
and with útter fidélity.
- 139 Í am consúmed with zéal,
for my fóes forget your wórd.
- 140 Your prómise has been thóroughly tésted,
and it is chérished by your sérvant.
- 141 Although Í am yóung and despísed,
I do nótforgot your précepts.
- 142 Your jústice is jústice foréver,
and your láw is trúth.
- 143 Though ánguish and distréss have fóund me,
your commánds are my delíght.
- 144 Your decreés are foréver júst;
give me ínsight, and Í shall líve.