

## **Psalm 119:105-112<sup>iii</sup>**

Your word is a lantern to my feet \*  
and a light upon my path.  
I have sworn and am determined \*  
to keep your righteous judgments.  
I am deeply troubled; \*  
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.  
Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, \*  
and teach me your judgments.  
My life is always in my hand, \*  
yet I do not forget your law.  
O The wicked have set a trap for me, \*  
but I have not strayed from your commandments.  
Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; \*  
truly, they are the joy of <sup>iv</sup>my heart.  
I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes \*  
for ever and to the end.

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### **<sup>iii</sup> About Psalm 119:105-112**

This psalm is an acrostic psalm, in which the first line of each of its 22 eight-line stanzas begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is the longest in the Bible. In this reading, the psalmist, despite his troubles, pledges to remain faithful to God's teachings so as to reap the rewards of faithful living.

### **<sup>iv</sup> About Romans 8:1-11**

Paul continues his discussion of the contrast between life in the flesh and life in the Spirit. Paul uses the "Spirit of God," the "Spirit of Christ," and "Christ in you" almost interchangeably, emphasizing that the source of the Spirit is God, that the full manifestation of the Spirit is in Christ, and that Christians experience the Spirit communally in the Body of Christ, the Church.

The indwelling of Christ does not, however, exempt Christians from physical death, for their

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bodies are still mortal, subject to death (8:10); but it does give the Christian a new quality of life that will triumph over death. The resurrection of Christ marked the beginning of the “age to come”; at the culmination of that age death will be destroyed. Until then, through the Spirit, God brings that future into the present and Christians begin to live in their new life.

Thus Christians are “debtors,” under obligation to kill “the deeds of the body” (8:13). These include all acts directed only to the self. They are to live as God’s adopted children, who call upon God as “Abba! Father!” (Luke 11:2; Galatians 4:6) as did Jesus (Mark 14:36).