

# Psalms 119:104

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

## Analysis

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**Through thy precepts I get understanding** (מִפְּקֻדֵּיךָ אֶתְבוֹנֵן mippikkudekha etbonen)—Bin (understand, discern, consider) comes from pikkudim (precepts, statutes). This is epistemology: Scripture is the source of true knowledge. **Therefore I hate every false way** (עַל־כֵּן שִׁנְאַתִּי כָל־אֲרָח שֶׁקֶר al-ken saneti kol-orach shaker)—Sane (hate) is strong language. Sheker (falsehood, deception, lie) encompasses all counterfeit paths.

Love and hate are covenantal opposites: loving God entails hating evil (Amos 5:15, Romans 12:9). Understanding breeds discernment, discernment breeds holy hatred. The Nun (נ) section concludes by contrasting God's truth with every sheker—the world's wisdom, Satan's lies, flesh's deceptions. Proverbs 8:13 declares, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil." This isn't personal vendetta but principled opposition—the same hatred Jesus showed cleansing the temple (John 2:14-17).

## Historical Context

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Israel was surrounded by false ways—Canaanite Baalism, Egyptian syncretism, Babylonian astrology, Greek philosophy. Deuteronomy 18:9-14 forbade pagan practices. The psalmist's hatred of falsehood reflects covenant loyalty in a pluralistic world—a challenge equally urgent for contemporary believers navigating secular ideologies.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. Does your understanding of Scripture produce corresponding hatred of falsehood, or do you tolerate 'false ways' in your thinking and behavior?
2. What specific 'false ways' (cultural lies, personal rationalizations, spiritual deceptions) do you need to hate more resolutely?

## Interlinear Text

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מִפְּקוּדֵי יְיָ	אֶתְבוֹנֶה	עַל	יְיָ	שֶׁנִּי אֲתִין	כֹּל
Through thy precepts	I get understanding	H5921	H3651	therefore I hate	H3605
H6490	H995			H8130	
אֵל בָּח	שָׁקֶר:				
way	every false				
H734	H8267				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 119:128** (Parallel theme): Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

**Proverbs 8:13** (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

**Psalms 119:98** (Parallel theme): Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

**Proverbs 14:12** (Parallel theme): There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

**Psalms 119:100** (Parallel theme): I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

**Psalms 101:3** (Parallel theme): I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

**Psalms 97:10** (Parallel theme): Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

**Romans 12:9** (Parallel theme): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

**Matthew 7:13** (Parallel theme): Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

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