

Psalms 119:115

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Analysis

Depart from me, ye evildoers (סורו־מִמֶּנִּי מַרְעִים, suru-mimmenni mere'im)—a command for immediate separation. The verb sur means turn aside, depart, remove. This echoes Jesus's eschatological judgment: **Depart from me, ye that work iniquity** (Matt 7:23, 25:41). The psalmist exercises spiritual authority to expel corrupting influences from his presence.

The reason: **for I will keep the commandments of my God** (וְאֶצְרָה מִצְוֹת אֱלֹהֵי, ve'etzrah mitzvot elohai). The verb natsar means guard, watch over, preserve—vigilant protection. Keeping God's commands requires separation from those who undermine obedience. Paul commands: **From such turn away** (2 Tim 3:5). Nehemiah physically expelled Tobiah from the temple (Neh 13:8). This is not pharisaical exclusivism but spiritual self-preservation—you cannot keep God's commandments while embracing evildoers who mock them.

Historical Context

In Israel's history, compromise with ungodly neighbors led to apostasy (Judges, 1-2 Kings). Ezra and Nehemiah's reforms required radical separation from pagan influences. For persecuted believers, choosing God's commands over peer pressure from evildoers was costly but necessary.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What relationships or influences need to 'depart' from your life to protect your obedience to God?
2. How do you balance Jesus's call to reach sinners with the psalmist's command for separation from evildoers?
3. In what situations does keeping God's commandments require you to expel corrupting influences?

Interlinear Text

קִוְּרוּ	מִמֶּנִּי	מִיֵּדְעֵי יָם	אֲצִיִּךְ הַ	מִצְוֹת
Depart	H4480	from me ye evildoers	for I will keep	the commandments
H5493		H7489	H5341	H4687

אֱלֹהֵי:
of my God
H430

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:33 (Evil): Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Psalms 6:8 (Parallel theme): Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

Matthew 7:23 (Parallel theme): And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Psalms 26:5 (Evil): I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.

Psalms 139:19 (Evil): Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.

Psalms 119:106 (Parallel theme): I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

Psalms 26:9 (Parallel theme): Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:

Matthew 25:41 (Evil): Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Joshua 24:15 (Evil): And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.