

Psalms 119:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

Analysis

With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. The psalmist moves from learning to proclaiming. **With my lips** (bisfatai, בְּשְׁפָתִי) emphasizes verbal testimony—faith is not kept private but expressed publicly. **Declared** (sipparti, סִפְרָתִי) means to recount, narrate, or announce, suggesting detailed testimony rather than vague platitudes. The object is **all the judgments of thy mouth** (kol-mishpatei pikkha, כָּל-מִשְׁפָּטִי פִּיקָּה), God's revealed judicial decisions and moral verdicts.

The phrase **judgments of thy mouth** personalizes divine revelation—these are not abstract principles but words that proceed from God's own mouth, carrying His authority and character. The comprehensiveness (all) indicates the psalmist holds nothing back, declaring both comfortable and challenging truths. This anticipates the New Testament pattern where those who believe with the heart confess with the mouth (Romans 10:9-10), and Jesus' expectation that His disciples would openly acknowledge Him (Matthew 10:32).

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, oral tradition and verbal testimony were central to faith transmission. The Shema commanded parents to teach God's words to their children through constant verbal repetition (Deuteronomy 6:7). Public recitation of God's laws occurred at feast gatherings (Deuteronomy 31:11-13). This verse reflects that culture of verbal proclamation, where truth was embodied in speech, not merely preserved in writing.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How comfortable are you with verbally declaring God's judgments, especially those that contradict contemporary culture?
2. What proportion of God's 'judgments' do you regularly declare—are there truths you avoid mentioning?
3. How can you cultivate the habit of speaking about God's Word in everyday conversations, not just formal religious settings?

Interlinear Text

פִּבְבִּל מִשְׁפָטִים בְּשִׁפְתָּחַת רְתִיְלָה כָּל סְפִּיְלָה
With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth
H8193 H5608 H3605 H4941 H6310

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:20 (Parallel theme): For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Psalms 119:46 (Parallel theme): I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

Psalms 119:172 (Parallel theme): My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.

Psalms 118:17 (Parallel theme): I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Psalms 37:30 (Judgment): The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

Psalms 34:11 (Parallel theme): Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Matthew 10:27 (Parallel theme): What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

Matthew 12:34 (Parallel theme): O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.