

Psalms 119:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

Analysis

So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever (אֲשֶׁר־קְרַבְתִּי תְּמִיד לְעוֹלָם) —Shamar (to keep, guard, observe) is paired with extraordinary temporal qualifiers: tamid (continually, perpetually), le-olam (forever), and va-ed (and ever). This triple emphasis on eternal perseverance reveals confident hope: if God preserves testimony (v.43), the result is unending Torah-obedience. The conditional 'so' (ve) shows this isn't self-generated determination but consequence of divine preservation.

This verse captures biblical perseverance: not autonomous human resolve but the inevitable outcome of God's sustaining grace. The psalmist promises eternal obedience contingent on God's protective action. This is Philippians 1:6—'He who began a good work will complete it'—and John 10:28—'they shall never perish.' The triple temporal markers (continually, forever, ever) echo Jesus's promise that those the Father gives Him will be kept eternally secure. Perseverance is guaranteed not by human willpower but divine preservation.

Historical Context

Hebrew temporal language often piles synonyms for emphasis. The psalmist isn't being redundant but emphatic—obedience won't be temporary or cyclical (like Israel's pattern of apostasy-repentance) but perpetual. This hope seemed impossible under the Old Covenant but is realized in the New Covenant where God writes laws on hearts and preserves His elect eternally.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that perseverance flows from God's preservation (not your determination) change your approach to long-term faithfulness?
2. What gives you confidence that you'll keep God's law 'continually forever and ever' when your track record shows failures and inconsistencies?
3. How do Jesus's promises about eternal security (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30) ground the psalmist's hope for perpetual obedience?

Interlinear Text

יעד:	לעוֹלָם	תָּמִיד	תָּרְתַּב	וְאָשָׁמָךְ הָ
So shall I keep	thy law	continually	for ever	and ever
H8104	H8451	H8548	H5769	H5703

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:11 (Parallel theme): He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Revelation 7:15 (Parallel theme): Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.