

Psalms 119:80

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

Analysis

Let my heart be sound in thy statutes (יְהִי־לִבִּי תָמִים בְּחֻקֶּיךָ)—tamim (sound/blameless/whole) describes integrity, undividedness. The lev (heart) must be wholly devoted to God's chukim (statutes/decrees). This echoes the Shema: 'Love the LORD thy God with all thine heart' (Deuteronomy 6:5). James warns against double-mindedness (James 1:8); Jesus condemns serving two masters (Matthew 6:24).

That I be not ashamed (לֹא אֶבֹשׁ) states the purpose: wholehearted obedience prevents shame. The Hebrew links integrity with confidence—half-hearted commitment produces insecurity. Paul captures this: 'I am not ashamed of the gospel' (Romans 1:16) because he was fully persuaded. Psalm 119's Yodh-Kaph stanzas close with this appeal for undivided loyalty.

Historical Context

The exile demonstrated that external religious conformity without heart integrity led to covenant judgment. The prophets repeatedly called for circumcised hearts (Deuteronomy 10:16, Jeremiah 4:4). Ezekiel prophesied God would give a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26)—fulfilled in the New Covenant through the Spirit.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. In what areas of obedience might you be divided rather than wholehearted?
2. How does pursuing integrity in God's statutes protect against shame in the day of testing?
3. What would change if you asked God daily to make your heart 'sound' in His Word?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי	לִבִּי	תָמִים	בְּחֻקֵּי יְיָ	לִי אֵל
H1961	Let my heart	be sound	in thy statutes	H4616 H3808
	H3820	H8549	H2706	

אֲבוֹשׁ:

that I be not ashamed

H954

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 26:16 (Parallel theme): This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

1 John 2:28 (Parallel theme): And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

John 1:47 (Parallel theme): Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

2 Corinthians 1:12 (Parallel theme): For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by

the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

2 Chronicles 12:14 (Parallel theme): And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.

Psalms 119:6 (Parallel theme): Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

Psalms 32:2 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Proverbs 4:23 (Parallel theme): Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Psalms 25:21 (Parallel theme): Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Ezekiel 11:9 (Parallel theme): And I will bring you out of the midst thereof, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org