

Psalms 18:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

Analysis

David kept 'the ways of Yahweh' and did not 'wickedly depart' from God. The Hebrew 'shamar' (kept) suggests careful guarding. The ways of Yahweh are His revealed will in Torah. Not departing 'wickedly' indicates intentional rebellion versus unintentional sin. This anticipates Jesus' teaching about abiding in Him (John 15:1-11) and John's distinction between ongoing sin patterns versus occasional failures (1 John 3:6-9).

Historical Context

Despite Saul's persecution, David maintained faithfulness to God's commands, especially regarding treatment of God's anointed and trust in divine timing for the kingdom.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What practices help you guard and keep God's ways?

2. How do you distinguish between struggling with sin and wickedly departing from God?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	שָׁ מַרְתִּי	יְדֹכִי	יְהוָה	וְלֹא	כִּי שָׁ עָתִי
H3588	For I have kept	the ways	of the LORD	H3808	and have not wickedly departed
	H8104	H1870	H3068		H7561

מֵאֵלֹהִי:
from my God
H430

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:102 (Parallel theme): I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

Acts 24:16 (References God): And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Psalms 26:1 (References Lord): Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.

Proverbs 8:32 (Parallel theme): Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.

1 John 2:19 (Parallel theme): They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Psalms 17:4 (Parallel theme): Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.

1 Thessalonians 2:10 (References God): Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

2 Chronicles 34:33 (References God): And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that

were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

1 Samuel 15:11 (References Lord): It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

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