All through the 119th Psalm, the Psalmist is experiencing trouble from his enemies. His enemies, intent on doing him harm were an irritation, and nuisance to him, causing him great difficulty, stress, and agitation, and brought much grief, misery, suffering, and inconvenience into his life. The 119th Psalm serves as a reminder to the child of God, that the Christian life is lived in a land of hills and valleys, and we cannot have mountaintops without also having valleys.

In this stanza, the Psalmist again, is seen hurting as the result of his enemies. In this stanza, we are again brought to see the personal aspect of his suffering. He makes reference to “mine affliction” [verse 153]. He twice prays “deliver me” [verses 153, 154]. He makes reference to “my cause” or circumstances [verse 154]. He makes reference to “my persecutors and mine enemies” [verse 157]. From these references, we see that it was a time of personal suffering and distress. It was a time of personal helplessness, for he needed and longed for deliverance. It was a time of personal persecution (harassment), and it was a time when he was personally hated by those who hated the Lord.

He makes reference to the character and activity of his enemies. He refers to them as wicked [verse 155], and as those who are non-desirous of God and His ways-”for they seek not thy statutes” [verse 155]. He speaks of their hatred and malice by referring to them as “persecutors” and “enemies” [verse 157]. He speaks of them as rebels, and disobedient by referring to them as “transgressors” and as those who “kept not thy word” [verse 158]. The character and activity of the ungodly caused the Psalmist sorrow and sadness [verse 158].

In this stanza, the afflicted Psalmist draws near to God in prayer-”Consider mine affliction” [verse 153]. That is, “Look at me with thoughtfulness and attention, and with kindness and compassion” He prayed twice for deliverance [verses 153, 154]. He prayed that God would advocate for him-”Plead my cause” [verse 154]. He prayed three times for personal revival, and spiritual renewal ”quicken me” [verses 154, 156, 159].

In this stanza, the afflicted Psalmist realized the character of God-”Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD” [verse 156], and he also made mention of the “lovingkindness” of God [verse 159]. In addition to the Psalmist drawing near to God in prayer, and having an awareness of the character of God, he also maintained a proper attitude toward God’s Word.
1. HE KEPT GOD’S WORD UPON HIS MIND:
In the light of his “affliction” he declared “for I do not forget thy law” [verse 153]. Affliction and the behavior of the enemy did not cause him to be unmindful or neglectful of the Word of God! In his adverse circumstances, he became more and more resolved to be mindful, attentive, and heedful of God’s Word!

2. HE SOUGHT GOD’S WORD:
He said of the wicked “they seek not thy statutes” [verse 155], the implication being, that he did seek the Word of God. In his adverse circumstances he maintained a desire to know God and His will more fully, and as a result, he pursued God’s Word!

3. HE HELD TO GOD’S WORD:
In the light of persecution he declared “yet do I not decline from thy testimonies” [verse 157]. He embraced the Word of God! His love, and his desire for God’s Word was not diminished by his adverse circumstances, or by the ungodly behavior of his enemies! WITHOUT WAVERING HE HELD TO GOD’S WORD!

4. HE LOVED GOD’S WORD:
In the midst of adverse circumstances, and the influence of the ungodly, the Psalmist declared- “I love thy precepts” [verse 159]. Unfavorable circumstances, and the wrong behavior of others could not diminish His love for the Word of God.

5. HE MAINTAINED HIS CONVICTION CONCERNING THE WORD OF GOD:
The stanza closes with a declaration “Thy word is true..........and endureth for ever” [verse 160]. This is the belief, the persuasion, the confidence, and the position of the Psalmist in the midst of hostile circumstances, and corrupt and unreasonable behavior.

In the midst of discouraging circumstances, the Psalmist continued to look to God in prayer, and continued to have a right attitude toward the Word of God, and the result was that he made a precise assessment of the situation-“Salvation is far from the wicked” [verse 155], and he saw things in the proper perspective-“Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD” [verse 156], and “Thy word is true..........and endureth for ever” [verse 160].