God’s Word provides us with the proper perspective of righteousness.

1. The Tsadhe is a reaping hook and reminds us how the Lord is in charge of our planting, growth, and harvesting.

2. The strophe begins with the theme of God’s righteousness (ψ119:137) and emphatically stresses God’s righteousness throughout the eight verses (ψ119:137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144). Zadok (צָדוֹק) #6659* righteous) gives us our proper-name word study for this strophe. (Another good name is Melchizedek).

3. God’s righteousness is manifest through His beyond-faithful commands (ψ119:138 cf. vv.30,75,86,90; Ps. 143:1; Lam. 3:23; 1st Jn. 1:9).

4. Personal zeal becomes consuming when it is expressed in the context of disobedience among our adversaries (ψ119:139 cf. Ps. 69:9; Jn. 2:17; Isa. 59:17. Also 1st Kgs. 19:10,14; Rom. 12:11; Tit. 2:14; Rev. 3:19).

5. The Word of God is tested and tried and worthy of our love (ψ119:140 cf. Ps. 19:8; Prov. 30:5).

6. “You” from v.137 is contrasted with “I” in v.141. “Small and despised” may describe us in human terms but God the Father accomplishes His purposes anyway (ψ119:141 cf. Ps. 22:6; Isa. 53:3 for Jesus and 2nd Cor. 10:10 for Paul).

7. God and His Word supply an eternal absolute for temporal relative creatures to embrace joyfully (ψ119:142; Mal. 3:6; Ps. 102:18-28; Isa. 65:16; Ps. 31:5).

8. Circumstantial hardships are no excuse and do not hinder obedience to the will of God (ψ119:143; 2nd Cor. 11:22-28).


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*Note: The Hebrew word "צָדוֹק" (Zadok) is translated as "righteous" in the English Bible. However, it is important to note that the Hebrew text is read aloud, and the transliteration is used here for clarity. The full context of the strophe involves understanding the role of Tsadhe in the text, which is explained in the narrative as a reaping hook, symbolizing the Lord’s control over planting and harvesting, aligning with the broader theme of God’s righteousness. This approach helps in grasping the biblical metaphor and its implications on personal and collective righteousness in the face of adversity and obedience.