

How shall a young man prone to ill

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

[Medius]

[Superius]

[Contratenor]

[Tenor]

[Bassus]

5

How shall a young man prone to

10

ill cleanse his un - brid - led heart? If that thy law

15

O Lord he do, all frail - ty set a - part. Em - brace with set -

20

- tled mind, _____ and learn thy word with care to keep:

25

And search to find with hum - ble sprite thy judge - ments that are _____

30

deep, thy judge-ments that are

deep, that are deep. And search to deep.

1. How shall a yong man proane to yll
clenze his unbridled harte?
If that thy lawe o Lorde he doe
all frailtie set a parte.

Embrace with settled mynde & learne
thy woorde with care to kepe
And search to fynde with humble sprite,
thy iudgments that are deep.

2. With my whole heart I have thee sought,
and searched out thy way:
O suffer not that from thy word,
I swarve or goe astray.

3. Thy woord O Lord, within my heart,
least I should thee offend:
I have laid up as treasure great,
for that shall mee defend.

4. The Lord is blest, hee shall me teach,
the judgements of his mouth,
Thereby to rule and dresse the waies,
of my untamed youth.

5. Thy laws therefore in open place,
my lippes shall ever sound:
And never faile to shew forth that,
to which thou hast mee bound.

6. For in the way of thy precepts,
I set my whole delight:
No wealth, no treasure of the world,
so precious in my sight.

7. What thou command'st I will think on,
With diligent respect:
And to thy lawes have due regard,
for they shall mee protect.

8. In thy precepts O Lord, my soule
her whole delight hath set:
Thy words therefore more pure than gold,
I never will forget.

Source: GB-Och Music MSS 984-988. Text of additional verses from printed edition.
(William Byrd, *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (London, 1588)).
Text: Anonymous metrical version of Psalm 119: 9-16.

I.11-12: underlay unclear: *brid* ♩ *led* ♩ also possible.