



The Heart of the Matter!

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and it is divided in sections. Last week marked the end of our first section as we finished verse 96. Our passage includes three sections, so we are a third of the way there... keep memorizing! Our verses this week capture the heart of the matter, loving the Word. Verses 97-98 say,

***Oh how I love Thy law, it is my meditation all the day.
Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine.***
Psalm 119:97-98 (NASV)

If someone were to ask me, “What is the most profound thing that has taken place in your Christian discipleship?” I know exactly what my answer would be. I would say, “When God transformed me to love the Word, it impacted my discipleship with Christ more than anything!” I truly believe it is the heart of the matter. There is a difference between doing something because you know you should, and doing something because you have a heart and attraction toward it. When we love the Word of God, we are drawn to it... we don’t have to be encouraged to draw near, in fact we can hardly stay away. Think about a young woman who is in love. No one has to remind her to talk to her boyfriend, or convince her to spend time with him; there is a magnetic attraction that drives her. So it is when we love the Word... we can’t stay away from it.

So how do you get to the point where you love the Word? There is a distinct difference between honoring the Word and loving the Word. How does one love it, have an affection for it, be drawn magnetically to it? From my own experience, God gave me a love for His Word. For years, I read it out of an honoring; it was more of a have to. Later, when struggles hit me, I didn’t even have it in me to honor the Word anymore and little by little I got to the point that I rarely looked at it. In a pit of my own making, I confessed to God that I didn’t have an affection for His Word, I wasn’t drawn to it. I asked Him to give me a love for His Word. After praying for three years, one day I woke up with a hunger for what God had to say that was so strong, I couldn’t stay away from it. My desire for God’s Truth consumed me and I have never been the same. Why did God wait three years? I don’t know, I am just grateful He answered in the way He did. It is my personal conviction that most of us won’t love the Word on our own, there are too many distractions. We need God to draw us to His Truth and place that affection in our hearts. He will, because He better than anyone else knows how loving His Word will bless us.

As I read further on through our passage, it appears that many benefits flow out of loving the Word. These benefits will be named in the next few weeks of our memorization and we will look at each one as they come into view. First, we find that when we love the Word, it is our meditation all the day. Does that mean that we read our Bibles all day long? No, I don’t think so, but when you love the Word, throughout the day, it just keeps coming to mind; like someone in love, you find yourself seeking out opportunities to hear from it, think about it and talk about it. It puts a song in your heart and shapes your thoughts from moment to moment. It is altogether different from having a devotion time in the morning that you check off your to do list. That is just the beginning. Devotion times with Him are definitely a part, but because you love His Word, it becomes a canopy over your thinking all day long. Why is that important? I am much more blessed when I think on the things of the Lord than on what my own mind offers me to think about. So, when I love the Word...

“It is my meditation all the day.”

The next benefit that comes into view from loving the Word says,

“Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies for they are ever mine.”

The wisdom of God is deeper than anything man can fathom. So you can imagine when we meditate on His Truth all day long, that wisdom little by little becomes a part of us. So often we might face something and then look to the Word for answers. Although that is right and beneficial, how much better to be meditating on the Word all the day, allowing God to build a storehouse of wisdom within us, so that when situations come, we already have the wisdom to face them in faith, with specific wisdom from God. In that sense we are wiser than any enemy we will ever face, because wisdom comes from God. I have also found, as we love the Word, we begin to take ownership of the Truth of God; it becomes a part of how we think and move through life. And... remember in week one, we learned His

Truth is eternal; it will last forever, so we know His Truth will be forever ours. How blessed we are to be able to set our affection upon something that will make us wise and last forever...



“Forever O Lord, give us a love for Your Word. We know that many benefits flow from a heart that has great affection for Your Truth!”