



Sure is Sweet!

It is week eight. Noting several milestones this week would seem appropriate. First, at the end of this week we will be two thirds of the way through our memorizing. We also are finishing a section of Psalm 119 and concluding what we are marking as the “Loving the Word” series of verses. These verses hold much; let’s make sure we give them our attention this week.

***“How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
From Thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.
Psalm 119:103-104 (NASV)***

If you have ever spent much time with a group of women, it doesn’t take long for the subject of chocolate to come up. As I write this I am traveling in a van to the airport with six women after ministering in Romania together for eleven days. I must say the subject of chocolate has surfaced often. In our culture, when women talk about chocolate, it is usually with passion. At the time these verses were written, it seems that honey was the sweet of the day. Whatever is your sweet of preference, it is usually a joy and delight. If given the opportunity, you will gladly savor it. The writer of verse 103 has found even more delight... he says the words of God are “*sweeter than honey in his mouth.*” Every now and then I meet someone who doesn’t like chocolate... I can hardly fathom. I always ask, “How can you not like chocolate?” After working on these verses I think the writer would say, “How can you not love the Word, it is so sweet!”

What does he mean when he says the Word is sweet? I believe he has tasted of the good Word of God and found it to provide the same pleasing effect as a sweet treat. It is a statement descriptive of enjoyment. The question would be, is it a statement descriptive of you? You see, I would love to arrive at the day when we as women talk as easily about loving the Word as we do about loving chocolate. Although I thank the Lord for making chocolate, the Word holds an eternal sweetness that can feed our spirit. It all comes back to loving the Word... no one has to convince me to eat chocolate... it is sweet, I love it and will usually take some if offered. I pray our response to the Word is the same.

Let’s take a second to review our “Loving the Word” series of verses. What are the benefits of loving the Word?

- It gives us something excellent to focus on all through the day
- It makes us wiser than our enemies
- It gives us more insight than all our teachers
- It gives us more understanding than the aged
- It helps restrain our feet from every evil way
- It keeps us from turning aside from God’s ordinances
- It is a delight to our taste, like a sweet treat

Wow... when we list them out in this way, it is easy to see why loving the Word is so important. These descriptions are certainly indicative of a blessed life. I hope you are praying for a love for the Word in your life and the life of those you love.

When we began this series of verses, it started out with these words,

***“Oh how I love Thy law, it is my meditation all the day.”
Psalm 119:97 (NASV)***

I find it interesting that the series begins with “loving” and ends with “hating” as the last verse says,

***“From Thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way”
Psalm 119:104 (NASV)***

For years one of my prayers has been, “Lord, help me to love what You love and hate what You hate.” I know many others have also prayed this same prayer. For the person who loves the Word, it seems this prayer is answered. Loving what God loves and hating what God hates become the bookends of our life just as we see in this passage.

As we love God's Word, He gives us the understanding we so deeply crave and it becomes sweet to our taste... naturally we will then hate the bitter taste of the things God detests. That then gives us one more benefit to add to our list...

- It helps us to hate every false way

If you are memorizing this passage with us, then I am sure you want to be a person of Truth. It sounds like loving the Word is the right path to take; I'm sure it will be a sweet walk!

“Forever O Lord, let us crave your sweet Word and turn aside from every false way!”