

Loving the Word

Psalms 119:97

Oh, how I love your law!

I meditate on it all day long. NIV

“Oh,” says the Psalmist, “how I love your law.” It is the passion of his heart. He esteems the Word of God, he loves and cherishes it! And so do all who love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. This is the cry of their hearts. The Word is so full, so rich! It overflows with food for the soul and comfort for the weary! It is pure and blameless, cleansing and washing us as it shoots its arrows of reproof at our sins! It is warm and comforting as it puts the healing salve upon the wounds of our hearts wrought by evil! It floods our thirsty souls like a river of cool water filling our life with God’s blessings of peace and joy! “Oh how we love God’s Word!”

Psalms 119:165 - 165 **Great peace have they who love your law,** and nothing can make them stumble. NIV

Psalms 119:47 - 47 for **I delight in your commands because I love them.** NIV

My heart was greatly encouraged and instructed as I read the words of the beloved Thomas Watson in “The Godly Man’s Picture Drawn with a Scripture Pencil.” There he writes of the eight ways in which a godly man shows his love for God’s Word. I shall use these as an outline to exhort us to a sound love for the Word of God, along with the glorious truths of Psalm 119.

By diligently reading it –

Where else shall the soul be fed? By what other means shall we learn of the Glory of God, the salvation of our souls, but to eat the Bread of Life, the Living Word! It is here that hearts are filled, our wounds are healed, our eyes are given light and we learn of that which we esteem and value more than any other thing, the Living and True God who is Himself the most valuable of all things to be treasured!

Psalms 119:18 - 18 **Open my eyes** that I may see wonderful things in your law. NIV

Psalms 119:54 - 54 Your **decrees are the theme of my song** wherever I lodge. NIV

By frequently mediating on it –

The Word is so great, how can we but read only? No, we are to meditate and to ponder, to chew and graze upon the Word! The Glory of the Word is so bright, how can we but gaze in awe at the beauty of Holiness? By meditation our hearts are permeated with God's truth. It is the blessed man of Psalm chapter 1 who meditates on the Word both day and night and is like a tree planted by the rivers of water. By meditation our eyes are fixed on Jesus, our minds are renewed according to righteousness, and our hearts are purified like gold in a crucible!

Psalms 119:99 - 99 I have **more insight than all my teachers**, for I meditate on your statutes.

Psalms 119:27 - 27 **Let me understand the teaching of your precepts**; then I will meditate on your wonders. NIV

By delighting in it –

What futility in delighting in anything else! God's Word is to be treasured above any other thing, for it is here that God is made known and His Glory revealed! Earthly things pale in comparison to the rich truth of God's Eternal Word! Heaven and Earth will Pass away said Jesus, but my Word will never pass away! It is the joy and rejoicing of my heart said Jeremiah! What saint does not long for and delight in the good Word of God!

Psalms 119:20 - 20 My **soul is consumed with longing for your laws** at all times. NIV

Psalms 119:131 - 131 **I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands**. NIV

By hiding it –

How many futile things fill our hearts and minds when all the while our memories could be established by God's Truth! In hiding God's Word in our hearts it becomes for us a ready resource for the flaming arrows of the evil one, and a great remedy against the temptation to sin. It is the flaming sword of the Spirit which makes our warfare sharp and penetrating! Store up God's commands in your hearts and you will have a ready treasure that can never be taken away. Even in the darkest dungeon His Word will revive your heart shine a sunbeam as bright as the sun!

Psalms 119:11 - 11 **I have hidden your word in my heart** that I might not sin against you. NIV

Psalms 119:98 - 98 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, **for they are ever with me**

By defending it –

The martyrs went to death proclaiming the good Word of God! They were not only willing to die for the Word, but to live for it! The next generation is counting on us to deliver to them the true faith, undefiled and in its purest form. Let us not recant in the day of our persecutors but stand firm in the whole counsel of God! Tell it to your children and

to your children's children! Talk about it when you stand up, sit down and walk along the way! May be ever before our eyes and always filling our mouths!

Psalms 119:109 - 109 Though I **constantly take my life in my hands**, I will not forget your law.

Psalms 119:111 - 111 Your **statutes are my heritage forever**; they are the joy of my heart.

By preferring it above things most precious –

Who have we in heaven but God, and on earth, what besides Him? How foolish men are to set the affections on earthly things! Mountains and trees, birds and bees, people and cars and boats and stars, when all the while the Almighty Creator of the ends of the earth is available for the taking! How we are satisfied playing in the mud puddle in the parking lot at the beach, when all the while is the endless shores of the great deep just over the sandy beach! What dear saint could be more precious than the God who made it all, even the very longing in your heart for fulfillment was created by Him, who alone can fill it!

Psalms 119:72 - The **law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold**. NIV

Psalms 119:127 - 127 Because **I love your commands more than gold**, more than pure gold,

Psalms 119:162 - 162 **I rejoice in your promise like one who finds great spoil**. NIV

By talking about it –

Godless chatter! Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly, 2 Tim 2:16, says Paul to Timothy. What do you suppose will be the sum of our speech when we arrive in glory? Will it be the weather, or baseball, or the great and swelling achievements of men? God forbid! On our face shall we be, casting down whatever thing might point to our own worthiness! In humility before the great King shall we cry, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty.....Worthy art thou to receive glory and honor and wisdom and power....worthy is the Lamb that was slain! How much more should these be our topic of conversation even now! His praise shall continually be in our mouth!

Psalms 119:108 108 Accept, O LORD, **the willing praise of my mouth**, and teach me your laws.

Psalms 119:172 - 172 May **my tongue sing of your word**, for all your commands are righteous.

By conforming to it -

How can we keep our way pure? By taking heed to the Word! For this purpose we were made, to glorify God with our thoughts, words and deeds! May God grant us strength to live according to His Word! May it be our life's quest!

Psalms 119:9 - How can a young man keep his way pure? **By living according to your word.**

Psalms 119:1 - Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, **who walk according to the law of the LORD.** NIV