

Evening Sermon Outline – October 3, 2021

“Love for God’s Law!” Psalm 119:97-104

I. Love for God’s law is the inspiration of art / music / poetry – this PSALM! –

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Psalm 119:97 (NKJV)

1. The first think to note here is time, I have mentioned before Gary Chapman’s Five Love Languages:
 - A. Words of Appreciation, Praise
 - B. Works of Service
 - C. Physical Touch (for people hugging, kissing)
 - D. Giving and receiving Gifts
 - E. Spending Time – Of these, spending time in God’s Word, is both an indication of love for God and His law / word and one of the best ways to grow in love for God’s law and God’s Word! Why?
2. Because to know God and His Law / Word is to LOVE God and His Word. True love is increased with quality and quantity TIME!
3. Spending more time in other things, when we have free time, diminishes time in God’s Word, yet love will make us desire time in God’s Word!
4. Plus, meditation, especially if combined with memorization Psalm 119:11, is possible while doing other things –
 - A. With work –
 - B. Physical exercise -
 - C. Even with entertainment –

Verse 98.—“They are ever with me.” A good man, wherever he goes, carries his Bible along with him, if not in his hands, yet in his head and in his heart. — Matthew Henry.

II. Love expressed for God’s law is love of God Himself –

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15 (NKJV)

III. Love of God’s law brings wisdom:

1. More than enemies, a necessity –

⁹⁸ You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. Psalm 119:98 (NKJV)

A. Enemies of God and God’s people have no true wisdom, but they do have destructive Satanic wisdom – Psalm 14:1-2

¹ The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. Psalm 14:1 (NKJV)

B. We need our own level of wisdom to battle such enemies –

¹⁶ “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Matthew 10:16 (NKJV)

2. More than teachers, an extreme grace –

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. Psalm 119:99 (NKJV)

A. Teachers have and give wisdom; I am certain the Psalmist was thankful for his teachers –

B. Love for God and His law makes “wisdom” grow and excel –

C. This should be the goal of us all, both student and teacher, to excel each other, yet not as competitors, but as sharers of wisdom and grace, which is all ultimately the gift of God –

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Ephesians 4:11–13 (NKJV)

3. *More than the ancients, a multiplied extreme grace –*

¹⁰⁰ **I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. Psalm 119:100 (NKJV)**

- A. *Because revelation has increased -*
- B. *Because we build on the knowledge of the fathers -*
- C. *If we have “more understanding” we will be responsible in regard to how we use it –*

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required. Luke 12:48 (NKJV)

IV. *Love for God’s law will result in our:*

1. *Our resisting and avoidance of evil ways –*

¹⁰¹ **I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. Psalm 119:101 (NKJV)**

And further note that the Hebrew verb here translated “restrained” is even stronger in meaning, and denotes, “I fettered, or imprisoned, my feet,” whereby we may learn that no light resistance is enough to prevent them from leading us astray. —*Agellius and Genebrardus, in Neale and Littledale.*

2. *Our continuance in what is right and good –*

¹⁰² **I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. Psalm 119:102 (NKJV)**

- A. *Having not departed, means he has kept on that strait and narrow path, he has not taken even one step out of it!*
- B. *Having not departed, means he has continued in this path, for a good period of time, and has no intention of departing from it!*

Why? Not because he himself was a great student, but because God is an excellent Teacher!

When we read the Bible, and pray for God’s Spirit’s help to understand, as we read, meditate, study, memorize and re-read ... when we spend quiet devoted time in God’s Word, God Himself is our Teacher! Even when a preacher preaches, God can be your Teacher!

3. *Growing recognition of its inherent sweetness –*

¹⁰³ **How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103 (NKJV)**

As physical foods, especially honey, chocolate, delicious candies, cakes, lollipops and ice creams are delights to our tongues, God’s words, His laws, even His precious promises and providence are delights to God’s children’s spiritual tastes!

⁸ **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)**

⁴ **But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)**

⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)**

4. *Growing hatred of every false way –*

¹⁰⁴ **Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Psalm 119:104 (NKJV)**

A. *God’s Word is TRUTH –*

¹⁷ **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17 (NKJV)**

B. *Knowing and loving God’s Word, which is TRUTH, will help us to recognize and hate, every false way –*

- *The devil and even our own hearts are LIARS –*

⁴⁴ **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44 (NKJV)**

Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV) ⁹“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

- *Knowing even our own sinful hearts are “deceitful” will cause us to trust, cling to, and lean on God’s Word – Proverbs 3:5-6*

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