

Subject: *Love for God's Word*

Scripture: *Psalm 119:41-56*

The writer of this Psalm is in love. He is in love with God's Word. We know this because he says so (vs. 47, 48). He will say it again in this psalm (vs. 97, 113, 119, 127, 140, 159, 163, 167). This is one of the sure birth marks of God's children, a genuine love for the Word.

THE REASONS TO LOVE GOD'S WORD

- It proclaims God's mercies and salvation (vs. 41)

The Bible is the revelation of God and His attributes. It tells us of God's great mercy. The only reason we have salvation is God's mercy.

Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*

Lamentations 3:22-23²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Malachi 3:6 *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

- It provides a ready defense of our faith (vs. 42)

The unbelievers and skeptics of this world reproach (mock) us, but we don't have to bow down in fear. We have an answer. We should know what we believe and why we believe it.

1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*

- It presents truth and gives hope (vs. 43, 49)

The Bible is absolute truth. **John 17:17** *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Hope is built on the truth of God's Word (vs. 81, 114, 147). Hope is the confident assurance that God will be what He has always been and He will fulfill what He has promised.

- It promises spiritual freedom (vs. 45)

Liberty is not the freedom to do what I want, but to do what I ought. Scripture is "the perfect law of liberty" (Jas. 1:25).

John 8:31-32³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

- It promotes boldness (vs. 46)

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

A worker in the circus put an ad in the paper that said: “Lion tamer wants tamer lion.” Satan is on the loose as a roaring lion and he’s not going to be tamer, but we must be bolder.

- It produces comfort (vs. 50-52)

The writer of this psalm is obviously in some kind of trouble and affliction. He mentions it several times. It may have been something to do with his health. He was also under attack from unbelievers (vs. 51), but he didn’t give up or cave in to pressure. He found comfort and encouragement in the Word.

Romans 15:4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort (encouragement) of the scriptures might have hope.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 ³ *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. ⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*

- It promotes songs of joy (vs. 54)

The Book of Psalms was the Jewish hymnbook. Some of our greatest hymns come right out of the Scriptures.

THE RESPONSE OF LOVE FOR GOD’S WORD

It’s so easy to say we love God’s Word. It’s the Christian thing to say. But if we really love the Word our lives will show it by what we do with it. We can say we love our spouse, our children, or our parents, but what we do indicates whether we really do love them.

- We trust God’s Word (vs. 42)
- We keep God’s Word (vs. 44)
- We seek God’s Word (vs. 45)
- We share God’s Word (vs. 46)
- We enjoy God’s Word (vs. 47)
- We meditate in God’s Word (vs. 48)
- We remember God’s Word (vs. 49, 52)
- We have righteous anger for those who forsake God’s Word (vs. 53)

Here are a few alternate translations of verse 53. (NIV) “Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken your law.” (NASB) “Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked, who forsake Your law.” (NLT) “I am furious with the wicked, those who reject your law.”

This doesn't mean we are angry with everyone who has a different interpretation of Scripture, but this is talking about people who have no use for the Bible and treat it with contempt and disrespect. It could even be somebody in a church or religious group. When God's Word is rejected and slighted we are highly offended because the Bible is God's Word, not man's. If someone in your family wrote a book and you heard people saying bad things about it, you'd be upset wouldn't you? And shouldn't we be upset when God's Word is not honored?

You are known by the company you keep (vs. 63). This is the basis of true Christian fellowship. We want to be around other people who fear God and love His Word. For the same reason we should not hang around people who don't fear God and don't keep His Word.