

Subject: *The Value of God's Word*

Scripture: *Psalm 119:57-72*

Some products come with these words on the label: "Satisfaction Guaranteed." Sometimes we are satisfied with a product and sometimes we are disappointed. The writer of Psalm 119 says over and over that he is completely satisfied with God's Word. Why wouldn't anyone be satisfied with the very words of God?

Steven Lawson had this to say about the value of Scripture: "The Bible is a living book, full of the life-giving power of God. Within its sacred pages, the Scripture alone possesses the supernatural ability to produce every God-intended effect in the soul of man. Known as the sufficiency of Scripture, this single truth is immensely encouraging in its implications. When accompanied by the sovereign working of God's Spirit, it is able to accomplish all God's will in the believer's life. Nothing is lacking. This claim does not mean that all truth of every kind is contained in Scripture. Nor does it imply that everything the prophets, Jesus, and the apostles taught is preserved in Scripture. Rather, the sufficiency of Scripture affirms that everything necessary for the salvation of sinners, the sanctification of saints, and the spiritual direction of ministry is provided by God's Word" (*Holman Old Testament Commentary*, 246).

God's Word reveals our portion (vs. 57)

Our portion is God Himself. We think of a portion as a part of something, like a portion of food. A visiting preacher was invited to eat Sunday dinner with a family after service. For dessert the lady of the house asked the preacher if he would like some pie. He said, "Yes, I'll have a portion." This dear lady wasn't sure what he meant by that so she motioned for her husband to come into the kitchen. "What does the reverend mean by a portion?" "Based on what we've seen, I think he wants might near all of it." The writer is saying that God is everything He wants and needs. He is enough. The Bible says we are complete in Christ. There's an interesting comparison that speaks of God as our portion in **Jeremiah 10:14-16**
¹⁴ *Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.* ¹⁵ *They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.* ¹⁶ *The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.* The false gods and worthless idols offer nothing in comparison to the portion of Jacob ("the LORD of hosts"). He is the one true God.

God's Word encourages our prayers (vs. 58)

Everything the Bible tells us about God encourages us to pray. He is good, faithful, merciful, all-knowing, all-powerful, and best of all, He is our Heavenly Father. He is able and willing to do provide whatever He thinks we need.

God's Word directs our personal choices (vs. 59-60)

These verses describe what the Bible means by the word repentance (turning from our ways to God's ways). God's ways are higher than our ways. His ways are better than our ways. So we choose His ways and not our own. We should not delay in obeying God.

God's Word strengthens our persistence (vs. 61, 69-70)

“Fat as grease” (vs. 70) describes the proud people in verse 69 whose hearts are so thick that God’s Word cannot penetrate.

God’s Word motivates our praise (vs. 62)

Because of all that the Bible tells about God and what He does we have to praise Him.

God’s Word forms our personal friendships (vs. 63)

This verse describes the basis of true Christian fellowship. God’s people fear Him and obey His Word. These are the kind of people we want to be with. It is true...birds of a feather flock together. You are known by the company you keep.

God’s Word satisfies our priority (vs. 64, 66, 68)

We can get along without some things, but we must have God teach us the Word. The writer asks the Lord to teach him. God is good and He does what is good (vs. 68), and one of the good things He does is teach us about Himself and His will. ***Romans 12:2*** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

God’s Word reminds us of God’s providence (vs. 65)

The writer identifies himself as God’s servant, one under God’s authority and in His care. He knows that God has always provided (“dealt well”) just as He promised. I think of two great verses, one from the Old Testament and one from the New. ***Joshua 23:14*** *And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.* ***Romans 8:28*** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

God’s Word is worth the pain of affliction (vs. 67, 71)

Affliction in verse 67 is the suffering that comes from bad choices, but suffering can turn out for good when it drives us back to the Bible. This is a part of God’s discipline or chastening process. Suffering will either make us better or it will make us bitter. When Robert Hamilton wrote this poem he may have had these verses in mind:

*I walked a mile with Pleasure;
She chatted all the way;
But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say.*

*I walked a mile with Sorrow;
And ne’er a word said she;
But, oh! The things I learned from her,
When Sorrow walked with me.*

God’s Word is better than precious metals (vs. 72)

Scripture is inspired by God. It is “the law of thy mouth.” That’s why it’s so valuable. There’s no other book like this Book.

How to Get the Most from God’s Word:

- Read it
- Study it
- Memorize it
- Meditate on it
- Apply it

Think of it as the fingers of your hand. Every finger is necessary if you’re going to get a firm grip on the Word. In the process of getting a firm grip on what the Bible, we find that God’s Word has a grip on us. Martin Luther said: “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.”