

David's Praise for the Word of God, vv. 7-9

- I. The law of the Lord (i.e. the entire Scripture) is perfect
 - A. The Scriptures lack nothing that God intended to tell us and nothing that we need in an infallible rule to guide us to glorify and enjoy Him, 2Tim 3.17
 - B. All its doctrines, promises, and warnings are perfectly suited to our needs. It needs no additions and will bear no subtractions.
 - C. What effect does God's perfect law have on the believing soul? It converts the soul, restoring and returning it to God, Ps 43.3
 1. In God's hands His Word transforms lives, turning a man out of the way of death and sin and into the way of life and holiness, Jn 8.12
 2. When a church abandons the preaching of the Word of God it forfeits the only means it has for the conversion of souls, 1Tim 4.13-16
- II. The testimony of the Lord is sure
 - A. God is a witness to us in Scripture, testifying to the truth on all matters. All that He says can be believed and relied upon, Isa 55.11
 - B. His Word will not, cannot, lead us astray, because it is sure.
 - C. What effect does God's sure testimony have on the believing soul? It makes wise the simple.
 1. Those who humble themselves as a child before the Word of God will be made wise in all the things of God. But the proud will die in ignorance, Isa 5.13; Hos 4.6
 2. Men are made fools by sin and need the wisdom of God. We must humble ourselves before His Word. Mature Christians are always people of the Word, because they learn from it how to both live right and die well, 2Tim 3.15-17
- III. The precepts of the Lord are right
 - A. God's precepts all accord with the eternal principles of His righteousness and with right reason. No fault can ever be found with them. No one will ever be led astray by them, Pr 8.7
 - B. What effect do God's right precepts have on the believing soul? They rejoice the heart, leading a man in the right path away from sin and hell and unto God and heaven, Ps 119.162 (cf. Jer 10.23)
- IV. The commandment of the Lord is pure
 - A. God's Word is free from all defilement and alloy, Ps 12.6. It's always safe to believe and obey God's Word because it is without error.
 - B. What effect does God's pure commandment have on the believing soul? It enlightens the once darkened eyes with the truth on all matters because it gives him the mind of Christ so that sin is seen to be sin and righteousness to be righteousness, 1Cor 2.14-16. No man can walk in a way pleasing to God unless his eyes are enlightened by the Scriptures.

- V. The fear of the Lord is clean
 - A. The Word of God is both clean in itself and makes a man clean who abides by it. It causes a man to lead a clean life.
 - B. Moreover, this fear of the Lord endures forever; i.e. the truths which God's Word teaches the believing soul will never be altered. For as God never changes so His Word never changes, Ps 119.160
- VI. The rules of the Lord are true and righteous altogether
 - A. God's words are never false. We ought not to take exception with any of it and we don't need to make excuses for any of it because it is truth itself, Ps 119.142

David's Commendation of the Word of God, vv. 10-11

- I. The Word of God is to be desired above the best of earth's riches because it brings a man into an everlasting kingdom and confers upon him an everlasting inheritance.
- II. The Word of God is sweeter than the sweetest pleasures of sin because it's food for the soul.
- III. David testifies to his personal experience with the Word of God, that it had effectively kept him—on many occasions—from being ensnared by sin.
- IV. And David testifies that he'd also been graciously rewarded by God for walking in the way of His commandments. The believer is never a loser at God's hands.

David's Prayer to the God of the Word, vv. 12-14

- I. David prays for pardoning grace, v.12. Meditating on the excellence of the Word of God leads David to confess that he doesn't even see the half of his sins against the Lord! So he prays for the forgiveness of his hidden faults. He knows that the Lord sees them all—but he also knows that his Lord will graciously forgive them all, 1Jn 1.9
- II. David prays for restraining grace, v.13. He recognizes that it's only by the grace of God that he stands upright and is kept from apostasy, Jn 10.28
- III. David prays for gracious acceptance, v.14. His confidence is in the fact that the Lord his God is his Rock and Redeemer, cf. Ps 103

Exhortations

- I. See that you get as high an esteem for God's Word as David had. It's a golden epistle sent to you from heaven. It's the infallible rule and level of God by which you're to square and plumb your lives. It contains all things needful for your salvation and sanctification, 2Tim 3.15-17
- II. Take heed that you give due attention to the preached Word of God. It's a matter of life and death. Nothing is more necessary in this life than sitting believably under the preaching of God's Word, Rom 10.17. For if the preached Word does you no good then there's no other way by which you can be saved. Therefore come to the preaching of God's Word with a tender heart, a sincere faith, and a holy reverence for God.