



Oologah
Observer

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

The Psalmist’s Love for God’s Word

Michael Light

One of the greatest single chapters ever written is the 119th Psalm. In this rich passage, David extols the value of the Word of God. If we could imitate his attitude and love toward the Word of God, we would be much better off.

Why did the Psalmist love the word of God?

Because it will help young people succeed in life. Notice verse 9, “Wherewithal shall the young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.” David makes the point that young people can do what is right and please God in the days of their youth. Today, our culture states blatantly that the young are going to do wrong (commit what is commonly held as immoral acts; drinking, dancing, fornicating, drugs, etc.) regardless of what is taught to them in childhood. God through David denies this lie (cf. John 8:44). David’s son Solomon wrote “Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Even in the church the impression is sometimes left that it is “normal” for young people to leave the Lord and live like the world once they leave their parents’ home. While it may occur more often than it should, it is never acceptable to God and should not be condoned in any way by the church (Galatians 6:7-8; Ephesians 6:11).

Because it will complete what is missing in a man. In verse 10 David writes, “With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.” Most people live empty lives. They search for meaning in all the wrong places. Notice the counsel of Solomon, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole

duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). If we go through our days on the earth without God, we haven’t truly lived. The key to David’s life was the fact that he sought God with his “whole heart.” We, too, must be completely given to learning, loving, and living the will of God. Some people know just enough Bible to be miserable. May we love the Lord and His word enough to follow Him wherever He may lead (Luke 6:46).

Because it was a constant to which he could always turn. In verse 11 we find, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee.” Once we truly understand that the message of the Bible is from God and for our benefit, our lives become more stable (2 Timothy 3:16,17). God has given us instructions to help us deal with every facet of life; every difficulty; every dark day (2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 23). We can overcome all obstacles with His divine guidance through His word (Philippians 4:13). In a world that is constantly changing and often seems to be leaving us behind, it is tremendously comforting to know God does not change and His glorious message of truth will continue to give us freedom (John 8:32).

Because it brings joy to the recipient. David is exuberant in the knowledge that with God’s guidance, life makes sense. Notice verse 16, “I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.” Joy and pleasure are not always the same thing. We typically view that which makes us happy (brings joy) as good. But true happiness is much deeper and more lasting than a moment’s pleasure. (As a side note, God is not against us having pleasure — in fact a faithful child of God should also have a very good life, John 10:10). David has a great attitude when it comes to the word of God. Far too many people have a poor attitude concerning the Bible, mainly because they do not wish to have their lives directed by (interfered with — per their view) anyone but themselves. David knew that he was in need of God’s help (as are we all whether we wish to admit it or not).

Notice verse 97, “O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day.” He loved the instruction that he received. In verse 172 he adds, “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.” When we comprehend that God gave us His word to help us (not to hinder us), our attitude will be better, and our hearts more receptive to His guiding hand.

Because it will guide us all the way to heaven. In verse 105 we read, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” The word of God will help us and direct us in the hard times of life. Many grope in darkness when the light of Jesus is just a moment away (Matthew 5:13-16).

May we imitate the attitude of the Psalmist in relation to the word of God.

Why Did Jesus Die?

Al Parr

The Bible several times records the fact that Jesus sent His apostles to preach the gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:15). One of the men whom Jesus chose for this work (Paul of Tarsus) wrote the gospel includes these facts: Jesus died, Jesus was buried, and Jesus rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Many thousands of people find hope in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, but why did He die in the first place?

The historical political facts are that Jesus was arrested because the leaders of the Jews were envious of Him, and He was sentenced to death by the Roman governor who was willing rather to please people than to do what he knew to be right (Mark 15:10-15). But if Jesus is the Son of God, did He not have power to prevent their killing Him? If He had such power, why did He not use it?

This was precisely the question of some people had who were present during the crucifixion of Jesus. In Matthew 27:39-44, we read that they mocked him: “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross,” and “If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.” So why didn’t He? It’s a good question, and there are good answers.

Jesus Died to Pay the Price for My Sins. In the eternal plan of God, man has always been required to sacrifice something to God because of sin. “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). When laws are violated, a penalty payment is due. When man first sinned, God provided a plan by which man could sacrifice an animal to atone for his sin (Genesis 4:1-7). When God separated the nation of Israel unto Himself and gave them His law (*see the book of Exodus*), He provided a detailed pattern of sacrifices of animals and crops (*see the book of Leviticus*). Whereas these were not perfect, Jesus is the *perfect* sacrifice that does not need to be offered repeatedly. The price was paid once and for all when He died (Hebrews 10:1-14).

Jesus Died to Save Me from the Punishment for Sin. Just as the breaking of man’s laws demands fines, retribution, or incarceration, so “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). For his sin against God, man deserves the punishment of death (Genesis 2:17). God is that holy (1 Samuel 2:2), and sin is that bad compared with His holiness (Proverbs 29:27). Instead of *my* dying for my sins, *Jesus* died in my place. Jesus is the “propitiation” for our sins (1 John 4:10).

Jesus Died to Fulfill the Plan of God. When the apostle Peter first preached the gospel after the death of Jesus, he said the envious Jews had “by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God” crucified Jesus (Acts 2:23). His death was not in opposition to God’s plan; it was at the very heart of that plan. From the time sin first entered into the world (Genesis 3:15), and throughout all the history of His speaking through the prophets (*i.e.* Isaiah 53:4-9), God said the Messiah (anointed, chosen One) would die.

Jesus Died for You, Too. As the price paid for sin, and as the agent of salvation from punishment for sin, Jesus’ death is the greatest expression of the love of God (John 3:16). That love is for every soul in the world. There is not one person who cannot benefit from His sacrifice and be saved from punishment for sin. Even those who, “by lawless hands,” crucified Him were shown God’s plan of salvation. When they asked, “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37), Peter did not tell them it was hopeless. He said, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” (verse 38). He added, “The promise is to . . . all who are afar off” (verse 39). One person who wanted to obey this asked, “What hinders me?” The man of God answered, “If you believe with all your heart, you may” (Acts 8:36-37).

As he faced His death, Jesus said, “I lay down my life ... No one takes it from Me ... I have power to take it again” (John 10:17-18). It was not a tragedy; it was good news for you. Believe in Jesus. Repent toward Jesus. Profess faith in Jesus. Be baptized into Jesus. That is why He died.

Observations and Concerns

October 18, 2023

Welcome Visitors! We are so glad you chose to be with us.

Praise in Psalm: “Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands” (Psalm 66:1).

Declaration of Appreciation: For all of our Bible class students both children and adults. Thank You!

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the *Smith family* upon the passing of Vance Smith. Vance played an instrumental role in the planting of this congregation, and served as the full time minister here for 35 years.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ *Sammy Gray* will be having some medical tests conducted in the coming weeks.
- ▶ *Andy Hudson* is doing better after his car accident a few weeks ago.
- ▶ *Stephanie Huckleby* has had sickness in her family.
- ▶ *Yvonne Hall* has been sick lately.
- ▶ *Sandra Rowell*, step mother of Landon Rowell, has been diagnosed with lymphoma.

Azalea Gospel Meeting: October 22-25, Jamie Beller, Theme: “**What Manner of Person We Ought to Be?**”



“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
		Wednesday, Oct. 18	Sunday, Oct. 22 AM
		Sunday, Oct. 22 PM	
	Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks
	Prayer	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper (speaker)	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen
	Lord's Supper	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
	Lesson	Doyle Jackson	
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
Sundays		Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM			
Worship 10:30 AM			
Worship 5:00 PM			
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM			
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