

Our Attitude And Relationship To The Word

Deut 30:11-14

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 - "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it."

Introduction:

- A. Our English term "word" means a combination of letters which expresses a single thought. It can also mean a communication or message, such as "Have you had any word from them?"
- B. God has always had a communication or message for mankind and in the Patriarchal Age spoke directly to people like Adam, Noah, and Abraham. During the Mosaic Age, He communicated His message of commandments to the nation of Israel through the word given by Moses.
- C. Read TEXT. Of course, we are not under the word that God spoke to the Patriarchs nor that He spoke through Moses to Israel, but the word that He has spoken to us through Christ.
- D. However, there's still much that we can learn from the Old Testament about TITLE.

I. *It Makes Us Blessed* - Psa 1:1-3

Psalms 1:1-3 - How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

[Psalm 1 is often thought of as a kind of introduction to the whole book of Psalms, to explain how the learning and use of God's word makes a person blessed, which basically means happy.]

A. The Psalm begins with the characteristics of the blessed man

- 1. He walks not in the counsel of the ungodly—doesn't move along with the wicked - Prov. 16:27-29

Proverbs 16:27-29 - A worthless man digs up evil, While his words are like scorching fire. 28 A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends. 29 A man of violence entices his neighbor And leads him in a way that is not good.

- 2. He stands not in the path of sinners—doesn't spend his time with evil people - Prov. 1:8-19

Proverbs 1:8-19 - Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head And ornaments about your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait for blood, Let us ambush the innocent without cause; Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, Even whole, as those who go down to the pit; We will find all kinds of precious wealth, We will fill our houses with spoil; Throw in your lot with us, We shall all have one purse," My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, For their feet run to evil And they hasten to shed blood. Indeed, it is useless to spread the baited net In the sight of any bird; But they lie in wait for their own blood; They ambush their own lives. So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors.

3. He sits not in the seat of the scornful—doesn't take his place with mockers or scoffers - Prov. 29:8

Proverbs 29:8 - Scorners set a city aflame, But wise men turn away anger.

B. Why does this man live this way so that he is blessed?

1. His delight is in the law of the Lord—he looks into God's law for his guidance - Jas. 1:25

James 1:25 - But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

2. And in His law he meditates day and night—he thinks about God's law all the time - Phil. 4:8

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

C. What is the reward of this blessed man who follows God's word?

1. He is like a tree planted by the rivers of water—strong and sturdy - Jer. 17:7-8

Jeremiah 17:7-8 - "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit."

2. Brings forth fruit in its season - Jn. 15:8

John 15:8 - "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

3. Leaf shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper - Josh. 1:7-8

Joshua 1:7-8 - "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."

II. *It Has Great Value* - Psa 19:7-11

Psalms 19:7-8 - The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

[The theme of Psalm 19 is the two great spheres of God's revelation to mankind—the first is the revelation of His being in nature ("The heavens declare the glory of God...") and the revelation of His will in the written word ("The law of the Lord is perfect..."). Of course, it's the latter part that we want to notice in this lesson.]

A. The Psalmist tells us what God's word IS—

1. The law of the Lord is perfect - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2. The testimony of the Lord is sure - 2 Pet. 1:19

2 Peter 1:19 - So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

3. The statutes of the Lord are right - Rom. 1:16

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

4. The commandment of the Lord is pure - Jas. 3:17

James 3:17 - But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

5. The fear of the Lord is clean - Eph. 5:26

Ephesians 5:26 - so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

6. The judgments of the Lord are true - Jn. 17:17

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

B. Because the word of God is all these things, it is valuable:

1. It is more to be desired than gold - Prov. 8:10-11

Proverbs 8:10-11 - "Take my instruction and not silver, And knowledge rather than choicest gold. 11 "For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things cannot compare with her.

2. It is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb - Ezek. 3:1-3

Ezekiel 3:1-3 - Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll. He said to me, "Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you." Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth.

C. Also, the word is valuable because of the purpose for which it is given and the results that it brings:

1. By it God's servants are warned - Acts 20:31; 1 Cor. 4:14; Col. 1:28

Acts 20:31 - "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

1 Corinthians 4:14 - I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

Colossians 1:28 - We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

2. In keeping it there is great reward - 1 Tim. 4:8

1 Timothy 4:8 - for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

III. *It Is Very Useful* - Psa 119:1; 11; 97; 105

Psalms 119:1 - How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD.

Psalms 119:11 - Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

Psalms 119:97 - O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

[Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, is often identified as a hymn of praise devoted entirely to the word of God; while it's too long for us to study in its entirety right now, we'll look at these four statements from the Psalm about how useful God's word is for us.]

A. It shows us the way of the Lord that we might walk in the right path - Matt. 7:13-14

Matthew 7:13-14- "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

B. If we store it up in our hearts, it will help us not to sin against God - Col. 3:16a; 1 Jn. 2:1

Colossians 3:16a - Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1 John 2:1 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

C. By making it our meditation, it will guide our thinking so our minds can be renewed - Rom. 12:1-2

Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

D. As a lamp or light, it will shine in our hearts and lead us to eternal life - 2 Cor. 4:6

2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Conclusion:

A. This is why Moses told the Israelites to have the word of God near them, in their mouths and heart, to do it.

B. And this is why it's so important for us to learn the word of God and follow its teaching in everything we do.