

- ***Read Psalm 19:7-11/Prayer*** One of the most well known Psalms in all of the Psalter is that of Psalm 19. Within this text we come to see God's glory and magnificence. As David pens this Psalm, he shows God's glory through 3 avenues. He shows God's glory through His creation. He shows God's glory through His Law. He shows God's glory through the heart of man.
- As David considers the creation of man, he writes how the creation speaks of God without uttering a single word. As David considers the heart of man, he considers how God cleanses the heart of man and makes him to stand blameless before Him. Then he also takes time to consider the Law of the Lord and how it shows God's glory through the way it can benefit man in this life.
- This evening, I want to take some time to consider how we ought to respond to the glory of God through His Law. There are three ways in which we ought to respond to God's Law and each of them correlates with some of the attributes that are given to us in this text concerning God's Law. It is our goal this evening to come to know what God's Law ought to cause us to do and why we ought to feel compelled to respond in such a way.

I. The Law of the Lord ought to be sought more than gold.

- A. Few things are sought after more by the average person than gold or wealth.
 - 1. If you think about it, the concept of paper money is just strange. I sometimes look at cash and ponder just how strange it is that this little green paper is worth anything. But the truth is that cash money does hold much value.
 - 2. It is valuable in the fact that it allows us to do things. With this money we are able to buy food, clothing, shelter over our heads...the value of this money is certainly immense and because of this we give great efforts to obtain enough of it to live by.
- B. In the same way, but on a much grander scale, we recognize that the Law of God ought to be pursued because of the immense value it holds.
 - 1. **V.11** gives us two reasons why the Law of the Lord is so valuable. Firstly, David says that the Law of the Lord restores the soul. It might be said that it is able to change the heart of man back to seeking after God.
 - 2. Certainly God's Word has been given to us so that we might be able to restore our fellowship with God. In fact, I would argue that the Word was given to us for this exact reason. It was given to us so that we might return back to God through faith in His Son Jesus Christ.
 - 3. Could there be anything more valuable than that? Is anything worth more than knowing how to restore relationship with the God who created us? I certainly can't think of anything that is more important than that.
 - 4. Additionally, David says that the Law of the Lord is able to make the simple minded person wise. For all of our technology and innovation, the truth is that left to our own knowledge we would not know much about the workings of this world or the grand scheme of life. In fact, the "most intelligent" people of our day believe that we came from nothing, by nothing, and are destined for nothing after this life. With this type of mindset, this life really would be simple...do what I want no matter what.
 - 5. However, God's Word and the world around informs us that there is a God and He is alive and he is worthy and deserving of our worship and commitment in this life. There is much value in knowing that God is and what He desires from us as His creation.
 - 6. We are all well familiar with the teachings of Jesus concerning what we ought to give the greatest efforts pursuing in this life. **(Matthew 6:19-21)** Surely as Jesus taught that on the mountain, many of his listeners were taken back to this famous Psalm that implored them to seek the things of God more than gold.

II. The Law of the Lord ought to be desired more than honey.

- A. The sweet taste of honey and its many uses causes us to crave it more and more.
 - 1. For so long, honey has been used to describe something desirable. We remember how the Promised Land was referred to as a land overflowing with milk and honey. Do this mean it had rivers of actual honey? Well no...but it means that it was an extremely desirable land to live in.
 - 2. Honey certainly is desirable. It is sweet and good tasting. It can make even the blandest of foods to taste good because of its sweet flavor. It can go on just about anything, even rolls as I found out during our year of living in Arkansas.
 - 3. It is the sweet taste and many uses that brings back people time and time again to honey.

- B. Even with its sweet taste, honey is still not able to compare itself to the sweet benefits of God's Word.
1. David says that the Law of the Lord rejoices the heart and enlightens the eyes. Through God's Word we are given reason to have joy in our hearts. We are made to know the love of God. We come to know how He created us to be in a relationship with Him. We come to know that even though we caused issue with that relationship that He put in motion the means for us to be restored back to Him through His Son Jesus.
 2. Not only this, but through the Law of God we can come to know what we need to do in order to stand before God in righteousness. Our eyes are enlightened to know what is wrong and what is right in God's sight. It lets us know what we can do in order to have good relationships with our fellow man. No matter the situation, God's Word can help us to see God's will for us and help us to know what exactly we ought to do.
 3. Once we have seen this in our lives, once we have had God's Word guide us to success...shouldn't that sweet taste of success through God's Word bring us back again and again? Certainly it should! With God's Word we can be successful in this life. With Him guiding us we can and will be blessed. What else could we want more than that? Honey might bring us some joy with its sweet taste for just a moment, but God's Word will bless us not just today or tomorrow, but it will bring us blessings for all eternity.

III. The Law of the Lord ought to be kept, not just known.

- A. It's good that we know the value of gold and the sweet taste of honey...but just knowing these things truly does nothing for us.
1. If I know that I can gain things through the value of money yet I never work to earn any so I can have nice things...what good is that?
 2. If I know how good honey taste...if I know that it adds great flavor to food that would otherwise not be that great...if I actually enjoy the taste of honey...yet I never use it to better my food then what good is knowing how sweet and desirable it is?
 3. Simply knowing something doesn't do us much good if we are not willing to put forth the effort to take advantage of the good it can do for us. This is true for money and honey, and it is even more true for God's Word.
- B. If we truly want to use God's Word rightly then we will not just come to know it and the good it can do for us, but we will actually be sure that it is kept in our lives.
1. Notice what David says in **v.11**. The Law of the Lord will provide us with much good knowledge that will warn and teach us about this life and God's Will. However, the true reward of Scripture isn't just knowing what it contains, but it is in knowing them AND keeping them.
 2. I can't think of any portion of the Bible that speaks more to this idea of not just know but doing than that of **James 2:14-26**. It wasn't good enough for them to just know that they had someone in need, but they needed to act as they were able to assist that person. It wasn't good enough for Abraham to just know that God wanted him to take Isaac up, but he had to actually do that.
 3. It isn't good enough for us to just know the value of God's Word. It isn't enough to just know how much God's Word can help us and how desirable it is. We must put forth the effort to not just know these things but to also keep the commands and teachings of God's Word. In this the servant of the Lord will be warned, but he will also be blessed in his obedience to God.

Money hold great value and honey is sweet to the taste, but neither compare to the eternal value and the perfect blessings that are found within the Word of God. May we show our commitment to Him through the constant study and meditation upon His Word so that we may know. But then may we strive to put that knowledge into practice so that we might be strong servants of His and reap the blessings that come from obedience to the God of heaven through the following of the Law that He has revealed to us in the Bible.