

Do You Love God's Word

Text : **Psa. 119: 97-106**

A. Can you imagine a young girl not opening love letters from her fiancée ?

**S#1.
S#2.**

1. He writes her letter after letter, but she only opens one occasionally.
2. Some of his letters are lengthy so she reads only parts of them.
3. Her sister comes across the unread letters, she opens them and reads them.
 - a. She opens the letters, reads them, and falls in love with the sister's fiancée.
 - b. She begins writing him to confess her actions and her feelings.
 - c. He eventually begins to correspond directly with the sister and

S#3.

B. This is a graphic illustration of the reaction many Christians have to God's word.

1. We claim we love God, but we leave His letters to us unread.
2. 80% of people who claim to be Christian ONLY read the bible in church on Sunday.
(Only 25% of Americans are in church on any given Sunday.)
3. Less than 30% of Christians ever read the bible all the way through.

S#4.

C. 77% of Americans agree that our culture is in moral decline, but most don't link the decline in morals to the decline in bible knowledge. (Barna)

S#5.

1. 60 % of American cannot name even 5 of the 10 commandments.
2. 82% think that "God helps those who help themselves." is a quote from the bible.
3. 50% of high school seniors believe that Sodom and Gomorrah were married.
4. 12% believed that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife.
5. A significant number believe that Billie Graham preached the Sermon on the Mt.

S#6.

D. Sadly, surveys taken among our brethren are fairly consistent with national stats.

1. There was a time when we were known as people of the book.
2. Most of our brethren would read at least once through the O.T. and 2 or 3 times N.T.
3. Surveys show that only 26% of Christians read the bible regularly.
4. Listening to sermons I hear brethren being given directions how to find passages.

E. Why should I love the word of God ?

S#7.

1. Only the word of God reveals God to man. **97**
2. The word of God makes one wiser. **98-100**
3. The word of God keeps one from sin. **101-102**
4. The word of God gives one joy. **103**
5. The word of God enables one to resist false teachers. **104**

I. Vs. 97 .. Only the word of God reveals God to man.**S#8.****A. Love for the word of God is a mark of those who love God.****S#9.**

1. **Psa. 119: 97** – **O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**
2. The Psalmist declares his love for the word of God at least 8 other times in this psalm alone : **48, 113, 119, 127, 140, 159, 163, 167**

**B. Love for God and love for His word are two parts of the same seed.
(*Embryo / endosperm*)**

1. God is revealed in the scriptures and nowhere else.
2. One cannot love an unknown God.
3. God uses His word to tell us what he wants us to know about him.

C. Love for God grows out of the knowledge of God.

1. We cannot love a God that we cannot trust.
Rom. 10: 17 – **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.** **S#10.**
2. Knowing God gives us confidence in Him.
I Tim. 1: 12 – **For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.**
3. Our love is in response to God's love. (*We learn of His love in the scriptures.*)
 - a. **I John 4: 10** – **In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and **S#11.**
sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**
 - b. **I John 4: 19** – **We love because He first loved us.**

D. Love is maintained through interaction and time spent together.**S#12.**

1. Young man went overseas to make his fortune in the oil fields. As he had vowed, he wrote his girlfriend every day without fail. When he drove up in front of her new address, he discovered that she had married the postman.
**** All relationships require maintenance.**
2. Isolation from God produces ignorance which causes love to cool.

E. One who loves the word of God will allow it to dominate his thinking.**S#13.**

1. **Psa. 119: 97** – **O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.**
2. A casual reading of scattered portions is of little value.
(*The word works slowly and quietly like yeast.*)
3. When we read the word, we must dwell on it long enough to let it rise like yeast.

4. Meditating on the word keeps our faith and our love growing and healthy.
 - a. **Psa. 1: 2-3** But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he . **S#14.**
meditates day and night. ³ 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.
 - b. Jesus referred to His word as "living water."
John 4: 10 – Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, **S#15.**
and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked
Him, and He would have given you living water."
 - c. If you want to keep your "leaf" from withering, give it living water from the word.

II. Vs. 98-100 .. Love the word of God because makes one wiser. **S#16.** **S#17.**

- A. Knowing the law of God as revealed in his word makes one wiser than the enemy
 1. **Psa. 119: 98** – Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies,
For they are ever mine.
 2. Every Christian has powerful spiritual enemies.
 - a. **Eph. 6: 12** – For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the **S#18.**
rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness,
against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 - b. **1 Pet. 5: 8** – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, **S#19.**
prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- B. Knowing God's word makes gives one more insight than his teachers. **S#20.**
 1. **Psa. 119: 99** – I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies
are my meditation.
 2. Notice, the psalmist does not say that he is smarter than his teachers.
 - a. Teachers look at the world through the eyes of scholarship ... **rules and facts**
 - b. Many approach the study of the bible in the same way , looking for rules and facts.
 - c. Some bible teachers use the bible primarily as a reference book.
*** Teacher in bible college learned many students seeking and advanced**
degree had never read the bible all the way through.
 3. That which gives one insight is spending time to meditate on the word. **S#21.**
- C. Knowing and applying God's word makes one wiser than many who are older.
 1. **Psa. 119: 100** – I understand more than the aged,
Because I have observed Your precepts.
 2. Wisdom does not come automatically with age. It is applied knowledge. **S#22.**
Jas 1: 22 – But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers
who delude themselves.

III. Vs. 101-102 .. Love the word of God because it keeps one from sin.**S#23.****S#24.**

- A. **Psa. 119: 101-102** I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. **102** I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, For You Yourself have taught me.

B. How does one avoid sin ?**S#25.**

1. The very first thing is that one must be able to identify sin.
 - a. **Psa. 119: 105** – Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
 - b. Before starting a journey one must secure a map and then follow the right road.
2. One who seeks to lead a holy life must be able to identify true holiness.

- a. God has revealed everything to us that we need to know to live godly.

S#26.

II Pet. 1: 2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

- b. God has given us an instruction book to teach us to study and to live.

II Tim. 3: 16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, **S#27.** for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

3. Notice God's purpose for His word. (*definitions from Strong's*)

- a. **For teaching** ... instruct in the right way
- b. **For reproof** ... refutation of error and bad behavior
- c. **For correction** ... restoration to a right state, improvement of life or character.
- d. **For training in righteousness** ... instruction which aims at increasing virtue.

- ** e.** God's desired result .. That those who study will be **equipped for every good work.**

IV. Vs. 103 .. Love the word of God because it gives one joy.**S#28.**

- A. **Psa. 119: 103** – How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

S#29.**S#30.****B. When we love someone we are eager and happy to receive any word from them.**

1. **Psa. 19: 9-10** The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. **10** They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

S#31.

2. It is always a joy to know how to please the one that you love. (*Promises revealed*)

C. When you love someone, serving them is never burdensome. S#32.

1. **I John 5: 3** – For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
2. Anything you can do to make a loved one happy makes you happy.

S#33.

V. Vs. 104 .. Love the word of God because it enables one to resist false teachers.

A. **Psa. 119: 104** – From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. S#34.

B. The world is filled with false teachers and erring teachers. S#35.

1. **I John 4: 1** – Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. S#36.
2. Some of those false prophets are deceived of the devil and think they are right.
II Tim 3: 13 – But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
3. Some of them are servants of the devil sent by him to destroy.

II Cor. 11: 12-15 But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. **13** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. **14** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. S#37.

S#38.

C. When one understands the scriptures, he knows how to respond to error. S#39.

1. The devil invents errors faster than any one man can learn them all.
2. BUT ... If one knows the truth he can readily recognize something that is different.

3. **Eph. 4: 13-15** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. **14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, S#40.

S#41.

D. Only God's word gives you and me the ability to know and defend God's truth. S#42.

CONCLUSION :**A. Why should I love the word of God ?****S#43.**

1. Only the word of God reveals God to man. 97
2. The word of God makes one wiser. 98-100
3. The word of God keeps one from sin. 101-102
4. The word of God gives one joy. 103
5. The word of God enables one to resist false teachers. 104

B. Every Christian should have a regular habit of reading the bible every day. S#44.

1. It's available in many translations and on many formats ... CD, electronic reader
2. Anyone can listen and read it free on the internet via our website.
3. All it takes is a love for God and a willingness to put Him above other things.

C. Quote from the late A.W. Tozer :

**Whatever keeps me from the bible is my enemy,
no matter how innocent it may appear to be.**

S#45.**D. If you are not reading your bible,
we urge you to repent.****S#46.**

It is God's instruction book for life on earth.

1. It's not a meritorious work.
2. It is nourishment for your soul.
3. It is defense against the devil.
4. It give you the confidence to share your faith.

INVITATION :**S#47.**

Lesson Text :

Psalm 119: 97-106

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

98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies,
For they are ever mine.

99 I have more insight than all my teachers,
For Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the aged,
Because I have observed Your precepts.

101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way,
That I may keep Your word.

102 I have not turned aside from Your ordinances,
For You Yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 From Your precepts I get understanding;
Therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

106 I have sworn and I will confirm it,
That I will keep Your righteous ordinances.