

The Word on the Word Series: 7

Psalm 119

Delighting In The Word

Let us first look at the definition of this verb 'to delight' -

This psalm has three words translated as delight - between them they have the meaning: see Strong's numbers - #8173 #2654 #8191

'to have strong desire for; a bending towards or inclination for something or somebody; to have an affection for sbd or sth; take great pleasure in; to enjoy; to rejoice in, take joy'

A. Worship the Author of the Word (2b, 7)

Verse 2a points us to the author of Scripture. Notice how the switch is made "*who seek HIM with the whole heart.*"

We love the Scriptures because they get us to God. We worship the author of the Bible. Through the word, we meet with God. We commune with God in his word.

Consider the scene in **Nehemiah 8** – the word is read, and then they worship! Why? Because when we understand the word, we are moved to worship – in repentance, confession, celebration, praise.

The connection between the word and worship gets made several times in Psalm 119: "*With my whole heart I have sought YOU*" (10).

"*I long for Your salvation, O LORD, And Your law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise YOU*" (174/175)

Virtually every verse of this Psalm refers to the author of Scripture: "Your precepts," "Your statutes," "Your righteous rules"

Through His Word, God reveals Himself, His character, His nature to us – we have seen this already (lesson 4).

As a response to His revelation of Himself, our hearts sing out to God:

- "*I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgements*"

(7)

- "*Your statutes have been my songs In the house of my pilgrimage*" (54)

- "*At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, Because of Your righteous judgements*"

(62)

- "*My lips shall utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes. My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness*" (171-72)

We don't worship God out of our imagination but out of revelation (who He has shown Himself to be)

B. Marvel at the Divine Nature of the Word (7b)

"*I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgements*"

The divine nature of Scripture is exalted in this verse and throughout the psalm:

- “righteous” (7, 75, 144, 164)
- “good” (39)
- “forever O, Lord, your word is settled (firmly fixed, established) in heaven” (89)
- “word of truth” (43) ... “The entirety of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous judgements endures forever” (160). We believe in truth, the word is truth.
- “sure” (86)
- “wonderful” (129)
- “light” (130) – for the simple! This verse highlights the clarity of Scripture. Any Christian can learn the Bible. If you have a heart of humility, then you can learn God’s word. (see Psalm 103.7)
- “Your word *is* very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it” (140)
- “...but my heart stands in **awe** of your word” (161b)
 - Notice where the Word should affect you: the heart.

C. Yearn for and Delight in the Word (14, 16, 19-20)

In light of the nature of God’s word, it makes sense that the Psalmist would hunger for it.

Yearning:

- “I *am* a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me. My soul breaks with longing For Your judgements at all times” (19-20)
- “Behold, I long for your precepts” (40)
- “I opened my mouth and panted, For I longed for Your commandments” (131)
- “I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; I hope in Your word” (147)
- “I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure” (162) - metal detector

Delight:

- “I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As *much as* in all riches” (14)
- “I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.” (16)
- “Your testimonies also *are* my delight “ (24, cf., 35, 47, 70, 77, 92, 143, 174).
- “How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth” (103)
- “Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they *are* the rejoicing of my heart” (111)
- “The law of Your mouth *is* better to me Than thousands of *coins of* gold and silver” (72)
- “Therefore I love Your commandments More than gold, yes, than fine gold!” (127)

What do you delight in? God's Word is sweeter than honey and better than gold or _____!

Our desires change when we become Christians. Peter says that when the new birth happens we begin to crave Scripture like a baby craves milk (1 Pet. 1:22-2:2). We don't “have to read Scripture.” We get to read Scripture. We want to read Scripture – there's a big difference!

Yes there are occasional periods in our Christian journey when our hearts grow colder, but we must repent and ask for fresh desire and delight.