

THE BELIEVER AND HIS BIBLE

March 11, 2018

Psalm 119:97-128

“O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.”

Psalm 119:97

1. “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day” (119:97).

The person who loves God’s Word will think of it throughout the day. It will be on his mind. He will reject godless counsel and sinful ways, and will “meditate upon God’s law day and night” (1:2). He will be as one who stretches out his hands to grasp that which he loves: “My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes” (119:48).

2. “I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love” (119:113).

Love for God’s Word will be accompanied by hatred for unbiblical thinking. Knowing divine truth, one knows that “the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God” (I Corinthians 3:19). He recognizes that worldly-wise culture is godless, and therefore empty and vain. Rejecting the counsel of ungodly thought and its scorning, he will “delight. . . in the law of the Lord, and in his laws doth he meditate day and night” (1:2). He stands upon the biblical affirmation: “let God be true, but every man a liar” (Romans 3:4).

3. “I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love” (119:163).

Having experienced the beauty and power of truth by the impact Scripture has made upon his life, one who loves God’s Word will hate lying. He knows that lying exhibits disrespect, and often incurs loss for its victim. He knows that it is rude and uncivil. But these are secondary. Above all, he knows it is a transgression of God’s Word, not simply its commands, but also the spirit of Scripture. He knows that it is ultimately an assault upon God Himself, Who is the embodiment and guarantor of truth. Truth is inseparable from God, so the violation of truth is a violation of God’s nature and person. One who loves God’s Word therefore hates lying.

4. “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (119:165).

“Nothing shall offend them” is perhaps not as strong an expression as the terminology of this texts suggests. “They shall not stumble” might be more on the mark, meaning that they will walk

firmly in the path of duty. In other words, the man who loves God's law will not be derailed from his duty and obedience by the offences others may heap upon him. The context of the psalm suggests that the offence may be adversity heaped upon God's people by wicked men. Because they love God's Word, the ill inflicted by God's enemies will not distract them from, godly duty and service.