

**Intro:**

This morning we were considering the second matter of God's self-disclosure to man, what we call *special revelation*, the written word of God.

We were considering it in the subject of the Word's life-changing effects on men – how this Word actually works in us to transform us from the old way of life to the new life in Christ.

We do need to remember that we are reading an OT statement concerning this. When we looked at the Christmas people in relation to this (*i.e.*, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary, Simeon and Anna), we are talking about OT saints.

The OT Scriptures were sufficient for the people of that dispensation to develop very high relationships with God. I think that we would have to say that many thousands of people in the Jewish nation through the years were walking with God in this way through the power of the Word. They were undoubtedly a minority of all Jews, but they lived for God nonetheless.

Today, we couldn't say the OT alone is sufficient for this kind of transformed life. What is needed now is the whole Bible, OT and NT. But the whole word has this same power, and even more so now with the coming of Christianity and the blessing of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

In this message we want to look at the phrases in Ps 19 that speak of the *value* of the Word. I have given our message this title:

*The Word's Worth*

(The literary among us might catch my puny pun.)

God's Word has great value simply due to the value of the One who spoke it.

“God's written revelation manifests a perfect internal harmony between God and his word. God's word reflects God's integrity, uprightness, and fidelity...”<sup>1</sup>

But it also has great value for us because of the immeasurable value of the effects it produces in us.

We will find these two reasons for the value of God's Word stated in the first verse of our text this afternoon and we will find the consequent attitude that the Lord's servant should have to God's Word.

Read Ps 19.9-11

**Proposition:** O, how love I thy Law! (Ps 119.97)

<sup>1</sup> Willem A. VanGemeren, “Psalms” in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, p. 182.

## I. The two great reasons for value (9)

### A. Valued for its effect (9a)

1. The pattern of the phrases: term || attribute || effect
  - a. The term here: 'the fear of the Lord'
  - b. An effect used as a name
2. God's revelation produces the fear of the Lord
  - a. General revelation, if heeded, produces the fear of the Lord
  - b. Special revelation also produces the fear of the Lord
3. The difference in effect between General and Special revelation
  - a. General = fear of judgement
    - 1) Vast seemingly limitless expanse of creation
      - a) Jesus said a sparrow does not fall without the Father knowing
      - b) I would submit that a super-nova does not explode without the Father as well
    - 2) If you understand the Word of Creation, you would simply fall on your face before your Judge in fear
  - b. Special = fear of your Lord
    - 1) This is the fear of a man whose soul is converted
    - 2) This is the fear of a man whose simplicity has been turned to wisdom
    - 3) This is the fear of a man whose heart rejoices
    - 4) This is the fear of a man whose eyes have been enlightened
4. The fear of the Lord is clean — as of one who has been cleaned from uncleanness
  - a. Uncleanness pollutes the land, requiring atonement
  - b. Our Lord Jesus is our propitiation, our cleansing agent who removes the pollution of sin from the sanctuary and grants us access into the Holy place

5. This cleansing *endures forever*

For the person who hears the Word and fears the Lord of the Word in all that term means, there is forever a way into the very presence of God.

We mean to say that a man needs to see himself as the Word describes him:

- A sinner who cannot save himself
- A sinner for whom Jesus Christ substituted himself (taking the wrath of Almighty God in my stead)
- A sinner who can be justified by faith in Jesus Christ – sins forgiven, a place in heaven forever

B. Valued for its integrity (9b)

1. The judgements are true: solid and established, firm

- a. From a root which means sure, solid, established, firm
- b. The same root gives us the OT word for faith
- c. And the OT word: 'Amen' ['solid, certain, settled']

2. The judgements are righteous altogether

- a. This is that word for righteousness which means conformity to a standard

You will remember from our Romans series my illustration about the 'righteousness' of my truck.

My truck conforms to the standard of 'truckishness', or the 'ideal truck', but it isn't as *righteous* as other trucks...

- b. The judgements of the Lord, expressed in his written Word, are righteous altogether

- 1) They completely conform to the standard
- 2) Nay, they *are* the standard

So when we come to this great word of God, we see that it is valued for what it does: produces godly fear that endures forever; and for what it is: the altogether righteous Word of God.

## II. The disciple's expression of value (10)

A. More desirable than gold – yea than much fine gold

1. Gold is right now selling for over \$1100 per ounce

An ounce isn't much. Pick one little ounce of gold up, how light it feels! It is currently worth over a thousand dollars.

2. Gold is valued metaphorically here — it isn't just the gold itself, it is the value men set on it that is significant

a. All men must have gold to live

b. Some men set about devoting their entire lives to accumulating as much gold as they can

3. The disciple eschews gold and loves God's word

B. Sweeter also than honey

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<sup>KJV</sup> **Ps 119.103** How sweet are thy words unto my taste!  
*yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

<sup>NAU</sup> **Jer 15:16** Your words were found and I ate them,  
And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of  
my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O  
LORD God of hosts.

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1. This is akin to the 'rejoicing the heart' we talked about this morning

2. 'Disciple' is a NT term ... but NT or OT, a man who values God's revelation as the psalmist did finds these words sweet to his soul

## III. The valued use (11)

A. There is no value in just 'having' the Word of God

In my library, I have many books. I am what is called a 'bibliophile', a lover of books.

- Some of my books I have never read. And I likely will never read them. But I have them.
- Some of my books aren't worth much. I wouldn't want you to read them! But I have them.
- And throw one away? It is all I can do. Just having them is enough.

A lot of people 'have' the Bible like that.

1. The Word that sits on a coffee table, or on a shelf, unopened is of little value
  2. The Word that is opened and heeded is of much value
- B. There is a value in finding the way to forsake – the Lord's servant is warned
- C. There is a value in finding the way of reward – the Lord's servant finds *great* reward

### **Conclusion:**

God reveals himself to men – this is a great gift.

He reveals himself in Creation.

He reveals himself in prophetic Word.

What a great gift this is! Is it your gift? Is it your possession?

**Proposition:** O, how love I thy Law! (Ps 119.97)