

Let Us Love God's Word
(Psalm 119:97)

Introduction:

1. God's people have a number of responsibilities that involve "love."
 - a. The first and great commandment is to love God (Matthew 22:36-38).
 - b. The second commandment is to love your neighbor (Matthew 22:39).
 - c. The Lord's followers are to love one another (John 13:34-35).
2. Today we are examining a number of passages that relate to "loving God's Word."
3. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. MANY SPECIAL BLESSINGS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH GOD'S WORD
 - A. These blessings are revealed in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - B. From the Old Testament we learn that God's Word provides:
 1. "cleansing" (Psalm 119:9)
 2. "power to overcome temptation" (Psalm 119:11)
 3. "direction" (Psalm 119:105).
 - C. From the New Testament we learn that God's Word provides:
 1. "growth in the knowledge of Christ" (John 5:39)
 2. "knowing the truth that will make you free" (John 8:31-32)
 3. "being loved by Christ and the Father" (John 14:21).
 - D. A proper appreciation for these blessings that are provided by God's Word will lead us to love it.
 - E. For our next point we need to show . . .
- II. WHY GOD'S WORD PROVIDES THESE BLESSINGS [ITS NATURE]
 - A. (John 6:63) Jesus said that His Words *"are spirit, and they are life."*
 - B. (Ephesians 6:17) The Word of God is *"the sword of the Spirit."*
 - C. (Hebrews 4:12) God's Word is alive and active.
 - D. A proper understanding of the nature of God's Word will lead us to love it.
- III. LET US EXAMINE SOME BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO SHOWED THEIR LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD
 - A. The Israelites during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (Nehemiah 8)
 1. (vs.1-2) They asked Ezra to read God's law to them.
 2. (vs.3-8) They were reverent and respectful.
 3. (vs.9-12) They reacted to the words that were read to them.
 - B. The people by the Sea of Galilee during the Lord's ministry (Luke 5:1)
 1. Jesus had been sent to preach (Luke 4:43).
 2. He *"preached in the synagogues of Galilee"* (Luke 4:44).
 3. By the Sea of Galilee, *"the people pressed upon Him"* to hear God's Word.
 - C. Mary (Luke 10:38-39, 42)
 - D. The 3,000 in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 2:41)
 1. These people had asked what they needed to do (vs.37).
 2. Peter answered their question (vs.38).
 3. Those who *"gladly received"* Peter's instructions obeyed them.
 4. They were added to the Lord's church (vs.47).

Conclusion:

1. We have seen that the Scriptures emphasize the importance of loving God's Word.
2. We have examined:
 - a. some of the blessings that are provided by God's Word
 - b. the nature of God's Word
 - c. how Bible characters showed their love for God's Word.
3. Let us adopt the sentiment expressed in Psalm 119:97 -- *"O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day."*