

129 Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.

130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

131 I opened my mouth and panted: for I longed for thy commandments. (Ps 119:129-131)

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it. (Ps 119:140)

You cannot help but talk about the things you love. You must exclaim and your eyes will shine when you encounter a wonderful thing, a painting, a sunset, a mountain vista, and mountain lake. Even a wonderful basketball play will cause you to catch your breath and you will be speaking of it for years to come. I remember listening on the radio when Bobby Thompson hit a three run homer to win the National League pennant for the new York Giants back in 1951, one of the great moments in baseball history. See, here am I sixty years later speaking about. You cannot help but speak of the things you love, even when you are an old man and it happened years before most of the people you know were born, and they probably make fun of you behind your back. But your day is coming. I was not even a Giant fan; I was a Yankee fan and my team beat the Giants in the World Series that year in six games. My baseball heroes were Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Allie Reynolds, Johnny Mize, Hank Bauer, and Phil Rizutto, Joe DiMaggio, among others on that 1951 Yankee team. But I don't talk about them anymore, because my loves have changed dramatically since those days.

The Psalmist, in Psalm 119, is speaking of the thing he loves: the testimony of the Scriptures. He cannot help but speak of it because He loves the Scriptures and is filled with wonder and amazement over the beauty and grandeur of God revelation of Himself in them. He glories in their perfections and their beauty. Consider his outbursts in just the first forty verses of this great Psalm:

Vs. 1-8: His delight in obeying God

Vs. 14,15: He delights in the way of the Lord: the precepts and ways.

Vs. 18: He prays that God will open his eyes to see more and more wonderful things.

Vs. 20: His heart breaks for the longing he has toward the judgments [discernment and wisdom in law] of God.

Vs. 24: The Scriptures are his delight and counselors.

Vs. 30, 31 He has chosen them gladly and has “stuck” to them. Joined together; Like we say, joined at the hip.

Vs. 32, 33: He prays that God would enlarge his heart; He prays to be taught them; he delights in them and wants to learn more and more of them.

Vs. 36: He sees the connection between covetousness and neglect of the Scriptures: If you love the world, you will not love the Scriptures.

Vs. 38. God's word is good; “Stablish” Cause them to be raised up, Stand up. Be prominent. They are good; They are to be monuments in your life.

Vs. 40 He longs after them, and wants to be alive and quickened in them.

But let us look at the texts before us.

I. Psalm 119:129-130

A. God's testimonies are wonderful: They will not be understood until they are loved; they will not be loved until they are understood. There is a spiral of awareness, here. Have you ever gasped with amazement over some great thing that you have understood for the first time? Has that given you a hunger to search them again? How precious is this to the child of God.

B. My soul keepeth them. This words means to guard and protect. The proper place to do this is in the inner man, in the soul. That's why he had said earlier “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Ps. 119:11

C. When the word enters, light enters.

1. Light is healing

2. Light is life-giving

3. Light is painful. “Men love darkness rather than light.” You can always tell where the devil is working: he is trying to put out the light somewhere. The work of the Spirit is to open the windows and let the light shine in.

D. Light gives understanding to the simple. Don't say the word is too hard for the ignorant man; the word is the cure for his ignorance. As we read in Psalm 19: “The testimony of the Lord is sure; making wise the simple.”

E. The Scriptures are as necessary as the air we breathe. I opened my mouth and panted!

1. They are the very breath of God and they are the breath of the new man in Christ.

2. How terrible it is not to be able to breathe. How desperate we become; how we thrash around to find air. Our breath is our life. So are the Scriptures.

II. Psalm 119:140: Thy word is very pure; therefore thy servant loveth it.

A. It stands every test: history, science, morals, theology, ethics, whatever the devil sends against it. Ps 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

B. You will not be ashamed if you bear faithful witness to the purity and accuracy of the word of God.

C. If you love purity, then you must love the Word of God. It is worthy to be loved; the love of the world will finally embarrass you; not so the love of the Scriptures. Revel in them. Keep them; love them. There is no darkness, no contradiction, no wickedness. You will be a light to the world if you do.

D. David Dickson, the old commentator, says that the Psalmist prays in verse 135 that God would show favor to him by teaching him His statutes. There is no greater favor that God can give you and me than to teach us His statutes, and he lists the rea-

sons for this in verses 136-144. Our verse, 140, is the fourth reason: Thy word is very pure; therefore thy servant loveth it.

- E. Have you ever had a dessert so good; and dish so delicious that you just had to have more of it, that you couldn't get enough of it? What about a song so sweet that you played it over and over and over. A face so beautiful that you could not tear your eyes away? This is what the prophets speak of here: the word is so good that you must love it; if you have tasted it, you will love it. If you have grown dull in your taste, the fault is with you. You need to renew your taste and cleanse your palate as they say. Relishing sins and earthly tidbits will dull your taste for heavenly things.
- III. We ought to love the Scriptures because they are the cure for whatever ails the soul. There are diseases of the soul that are deadly, and may even affect the body and its health. The Scriptures are the cure:
- A. Confusion 119:97-100, 104, 105, 142
 - B. Depression 119:28, 143-144
 - C. Discouragement: Psalm 119:49, 50
 - D. Anger 119:7, 16,
 - E. Guilt 119:29 75-76, 176
 - F. Loneliness 119:63
 - G. Slander 110:23, 42, 51, 69
 - H. Bitterness 119:22, 32, 92, 93
 - I. Despair; 119:81-88
 - J. Anxiety and worry 119 ;113-120 143-144
 - K. Temptation 119:11, 133
 - L. Sadness 119:37, 52
 - M. Fear 119:117

This is just a very small sample of the healing virtue of the Scripture, for I confined myself to Ps. 119. Proverbs 4: 20 "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

Let your light shine. In order for it to shine, it must be lit by the Word of God, polished by the word of God, magnified by the word of God and powered by the Holy Ghost. May God bless you. Amen