

Sharing Jesus Love for the Word
Psalm 119:9-16
Sermon Outline

Introduction:

“The fellowship of being near to God must become reality, in the full and vigorous prosecution of our life. It must permeate and give color to our feelings, our perceptions, our sensations, our thinking, our imagining, our willing, our acting, our speaking. It must not stand as a foreign factor in our life, but it must be the passion that breathes throughout our whole existence.”

Abraham Kuyper

I) How do we cultivate such a life?

By loving God’s Word (v. 9, v. 11)

Is this Pharisaism?

Modern day “spirituality”

II) How do we know we are on track?

A) Storing up

v. 11: I have stored up your word

v. 14: In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches

Knowing by heart

Jesus in the wilderness: *Luke 4:5-8: It is written...*

Ipod technology

- Under-used blessing
- Passivity curse

B) Seeking help

v. 12: Blessed are you Lord; teach me your statutes

Jesus in the temple: *Luke 2:46-27, They found him in the midst of the teachers...*

Quiet Times: PWP

C) Speaking out

v. 13: With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth

Romans 10:8-9: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord...you will be saved

No separating body and soul

D) Submitting to

v. 10: With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments

Jesus in the Garden: *Luke 22:41, Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done.*

III) How do we deal with the shortfall?

Jesus: The only complete embodiment of Psalm 119

**What he brought to God at the cross was something that we could never bring
What he bring to us is forgiveness and power to change**

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) It is possible to love the Word of God without loving its Author: the Pharisees did this. How do we avoid the Pharisee's problem while still being passionate about the Word?
- 2) Discuss the difference between Biblical spirituality (which takes what God says in Scripture very seriously) from modern-day spirituality (which conjures up a version of God that "works for me."). Is this a fair distinction? How do you find yourself slipping away from Biblical spirituality?
- 3) How much of the Bible have you memorized? What benefits has Bible memory brought to you? What inhibits Bible memorization for you? How might you be more diligent in Bible memory?
- 4) Reflect upon the following: "The curse associated with ipod technology, even when it is used for 'spiritual input', is that it makes us too passive. To "store up" the Word is to engage with it actively, to memorize it, to turn it over in your mind, to preach it to yourself, to apply it aggressively to your life."
- 5) How do you seek help in understanding the Bible? What resources have you found helpful? Do you pray routinely before you open the book? Do you have a daily Quiet Time in which you pray and read the Word? If not, why not?
- 6) Psalm 119:13 says, "With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth." Why is it so important to verbalize the word? Why does Paul say in Romans 10:8-9 that part of being saved is "confessing with our lips that Jesus is Lord?" What inhibits us from speaking out?
- 7) Reflect on the following: "Conviction of the Bible's truth comes as we obey it. If we ignore its commands it loses its vitality; if we submit, the bible comes alive." Recall experiences from your own life in which you have seen the truth of this statement.
- 8) Reflect on the following: "What Jesus brought to God at the the cross was something we could never bring—perfect obedience: a life-time of profound love for God and his Word. And there he offered that life is place of ours, his love for the Word for our indifference to it. And there is more: Jesus now lives in all who believe, by his Spirit writing the law upon their hearts, so that they, like him, love God and his Word." Document ways in which you have seen this reality in your life.