**LOVING LAW**

***“Oh How I Love Your Law”***

David said in Psalm 119:97 “*Oh how I love Your law, it is my meditation all the day*.” What a strange quote. In this present age of debate concerning law and order why would anyone direct his love toward law, any law, even the law of God? Stop and think about it. Law limits our choices. Law restricts our freedom. Law torments our conscience. Law sits heavy on our shoulders like a gorilla.

Why would anyone, especially a king like David, express such a deep affection for law and order? If we can discover why “*the sweet Psalmist of Israel*” loved law so much, maybe we can learn a powerful lesson for our day in which so many seek to do “*what is right in his own eyes*” (Judg. 17:6; 21:25).

First, the “Blessed Man” is one who “*delights in the law of the Lord, and in His* ***law*** *he meditates day and night*” (Psa. 1:1-2). He embraces God’s law like a lover embraces his sweetheart, desiring it day and night. Just as lovers are happy (blessed) when alone together, so am I when alone with God as He speaks to my heart and says, “I love you.” I hold God’s law near to my heart, musing and meditating on it, both consciously and unconsciously, day and night.

Second, he has learned this truth, “*the* ***law*** *of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul… the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart… more to be desired are they than gold, then much fine gold… by them your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward*” (Psa. 19:7-11). Law gives warning from danger. Law-keeping leads to great reward. No wonder it is more priceless than “*fine gold.*” *Fine* means purity, thus we say today if gold is 24 Karat, we are saying it is pure or fine gold – not mixed with any other metal. God’s people would rather have a worn-out Bible than a bank vault full of 24 K. gold bars (note: one pure gold bar held in the U. S. Reserve Bank is presently worth $61,486.94).

Third, law reflects the lawgiver. The laws written by America’s founding fathers reflected the kind of men they were. Laws written by the Roman senate reflected the character of those men. Laws written by God reveal the very heart of God. They tell us who He is by telling us what He wants. When Jesus said, “*If you love Me, keep my commandments*” (Jn. 14:15), and “*You are My friends if you do whatever I command you*” (Jn. 15:14), He was telling us how to love Him and be His friend. Without law-keeping and commandment-keeping there can be no love or friendship with God, or true Christianity. Discipleship is a gross misnomer, a contradiction, without loving His law.

Finally, law is something to seek, not passively, but actively, with your whole heart. Who can read the longest chapter in the Bible (Psalm 119) and not be powerfully impressed with David’s love for law. Out of the 176 verses he mentions God’s Word in 170 of them, using synonyms for the Bible with words like laws (25x), statutes (22x), testimonies (23x), commandments (24x), judgments (24x), word (43x), precepts (21x), and ways (32x). Just feel the passion in David’s voice as he describes his love for God’s law in his life:

Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart! (119:2)

With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! (119:10)

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart! (119:34)

I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word. (119:58)

The proud have forged a lie against me, But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart. (119:69)

I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes. (119:45)

Wow! Is there any wonder God called David “*a man after My own heart*?” David sat in rapt attention, leaning forward, hanging on every word God spoke. While the word *Lawyer* was not one of the descriptions given to sum up David’s biography (like King, Poet, Shepherd, Musician, Judge, Warrior, etc.), we can safely add that to his resume’. He was a lifelong student and practitioner of Law in the highest sense of the word.

It wouldn’t surprise me at all if David could quote verbatim entire books from the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament), especially the law books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. I’m sure he could dissect every command of God with as much precise detail as a graduate biology student could dissect a frog. He not only knew every jot and tittle of the law, but joyfully kept it! God’s Law was his “*delight*.” As the apostle John later put it*: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome”* (I Jn. 5:3).

Again I repeat, “*Oh how I love Your Law, it is my meditation all the day*!” (Psa. 119:97). In these troubling times when law and order are called into question, even becoming a political issue during the presidential campaigns, it would do us all well to take up the mantle of David and become a champion of law-loving and law-keeping.

Christians, of all people, are the greatest law-and-order citizens of any nation. That is why it can be said without fear of contradiction, “*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people*” (Prov. 14:34). Citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20) make the best citizens on earth.

I love you. - Rick