



April 8

Passage: Psalm 119:97-104

READ & DIG. Read Psalm 119:97-104

God's Word is important, the Psalmist teaches us that in his love for the Lord's law and its insights. What an attitude to have when approaching God's Word! Let's take a closer look at what David is saying. Here's what jumped out to me.

MEDITATION (v.97)

David loves the law! That may sound a little weird to you and me, but he is saying that he doesn't just like the law or deal with it, but he loves it. Think about the 10 Commandments for a minute. We often think about the law or the 10 Commandments as something that is just a set of rules, but that's not it at all. The 10 Commandments and the Old Testament law was given to the Israelites, who were free, so they would know how to live in a relationship with God. This is what David loves! Not just a set of "do's and don'ts," but rather the law that directs his relationship with the Lord. One of the ways we see David's love for the law is that he is thinking about it and meditating on it all day long. It's at the front of his thoughts and decisions in everything he does. What about you? Do you love the law of the Lord? Why or why not? Do you view the law as something that's holding you back or something that teaches you how to live in a right relationship with the Lord?

UNDERSTANDING (vv.98-100)

Through his love and meditation, David gains understanding greater than those around him. Not because he's the smartest guy in the room, but because of what he is studying. Not only does he have more understanding because of the law, but he also keeps it. This is key to understanding what David is saying. Not only does he think about and meditate on the law, but he follows it.

OBEDIENCE! (vv.101-104)

Understanding leads to obedience for David, as it should for all of us. He knows the law, understands it and now it plays out in his life, through obedience. David's obedience to the law is an example for us. He thinks of the law as sweet to taste, "sweeter than honey." He has moved past just a head-knowledge of what the Lord requires and is now acting up on it. This isn't holding him back from living his best life. He goes on to say that keeping the word keeps him from evil.

Apply & GO

Remember, that the law isn't against us or holding us back from living our best lives, but it's for our good. Here is the good news; you don't have to keep all the law, because Jesus has done that on our behalf. Now before we go any further, we need to clarify something. Just because Jesus has kept all the law on our behalf, this doesn't mean that we should just ignore the law. It's still for our good. As we approach Easter this week, think on the law and how Jesus kept it and was sacrificed on our behalf.

So, what now? What do we do with this? What does this Psalm teach us about God? Does it teach us anything about Jesus? What can we learn about his law? What about his word? (Romans 8:3-4)

