

Psalms 1:1-3

Sunday 9/24/2023

We have talked about and laid out the blessings that will go with that walk. That is really what week one was about, once we got through the introduction, was how we can have a walk. We used Noah and Enoch as the example. Last week, we talked about how you can lose your walk. I want you to fully understand all the dynamics of this, so that you are able to keep the most precious thing that you have, and that is your walk with God through the Word of God.

We have built our study so far on two really good, solid concepts with a couple of key words. We looked at Amos 3:3, where it says:

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

The first word we looked at was the word "to agree," that we have to be in agreement with God on some things. The second one was found in Luke 2:42-46. The key word there was "suppose." You know now that that story is about supposing you are walking with Him, like His parents thought they were, but in actuality, He was not with them.

We talked about the need for a good balance in your walk and how important that is to keep on that straight and narrow path, as Matthew 7:13 talks about. Out of Psalms 1, so far what we have learned in our walk is:

1. We need to be careful who you walk with.
2. We need to be careful who you stand with.
3. You need to be careful with who you sit with.

The danger of losing your walk will simply be you losing the rewards that God has for you, the crown, that we are told, "Let no man take thy crown." I gave you, and I hope you are using this forever at this point on in your life, the idea of fact-checking, making sure you just do not believe something somebody says, including me, but you have checked the facts. You make sure that what they are telling you is accurate, as far as the Word of God is concerned.

Then we talked about the danger of success, that we think that success is a great thing, and it certainly is, but it has the same issues of getting out of balance and being a bad thing as anything else in your life. You never want to leave your guard down when it comes to your walk with God.

I. Introduction to Psalms Chapter One, Verse Two

Today, we are going to move on into the second part of Psalms 1:1-3. Our text today, if you have it there, will be Psalms 1. I am going to read the three verses again, except I am just going to deal with the second verse today, but just to keep the continuity, it says:

Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Father, we thank You and praise You for today. We love You. Thank You for all that You do for us. Thank You for the folks that have come out today. We pray, Father, that You continue to use this church around this country and around the world. We thank You for Your good people here that make it possible, that believe in this work and support this work, and Lord, we just can get everything done we can in these last days. Help us today, forgive us where we fail You, put us under the blood, and allow us to be clean today as we take the Word of God and partake it into our hearts. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, Amen.

We have already covered verse one, and we know now everything we probably need to know about a walk and protecting that walk. When you look at Psalms 1:1-3, you are going to find that it is going to naturally break down into three sections. This is how we are going to follow it through Psalms, and you find it breaks down one thing in verse one, another in verse two, and another in verse three.

You will find this natural breakdown all through the book of Psalms, but actually all through the Bible, and that is what you want to look for. You want to read a passage like this, and you want to then look how it naturally breaks itself down around three subject matters. Verse one has one subject, "walk." Verse two has another one, "you delight yourself in the law of the Lord." Then the third one is "a tree planted by the river of waters."

We saw in our first section, "Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." We now understand, as I have already said, how to have that walk, to maintain that walk, that we never lose that walk.

My goal here, and I have been clear from the very beginning when we started our church over 20 years ago, is to help you from the newborn again baby steps. The Bible says that when you just get saved, you are a baby Christian, a babe in Christ. The Bible says:

1 Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

That is the goal here, to take you from your baby steps. The moment you got saved, we began to work with you to bring you to a solid biblical walk with God. I look around here today and over the last 10, 15 years, all of the folks that have come in here, when you came in, you were taking those baby steps. You had just gotten saved or had just discovered that the Bible was really an incredible book. You began to grow. The things that we have here, the people that we have here, they mentored you. They took care of you. Like any parent with their babies, they helped you through the baby steps. Now look at you today. Now you are helping others.

This church continues to have a host of young, baby Christians coming in that need to be nurtured, that need to be taken care of. It is the process that God designed of how we do that. My goal is to get you to the place from those baby steps when you are first born again, to a solid biblical walk with God. Along with that walk with God comes the blessings that God has for you that goes with it. Many of you are on your way. If you are a new Christian here, or somebody just trying to figure it all out, you are in the right place. We are here for you. We have everything that you need to get you where God wants you to be.

II. The Contrast: Blessings Versus Curses

Today in our second section, we are going to see what our desire and our motivating force should be behind our walk. Because behind everything we do for God, there needs to be the right motive. We are going to talk about that today. Let us look at our second section here in verse two:

Psalms 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

I have not given you this yet because I was waiting until today, and we will be using this throughout the next couple of weeks. Psalms 1:1-3 will have a really good contrasting passage to it. Most people have never seen it. I have never really heard a preacher preach on it. This contrasting passage will show you the life with the blessings of God and a life without those blessings. Again, contrast, another great tool in learning your Bible. God not only shows you by the things that are similar, the things that are alike, but He shows you by the things that are different.

This amazing tool of Bible study starts in Genesis 1:4, where God divided the light from the darkness, and that is your first contrast in the Bible. Then through the rest of the Bible, you will find where God will teach you by things that are associated together, things that are alike, but He will show you and teach you by the things that are different that bring us a contrast. It is an amazing tool of the Bible. So it starts back in Genesis 1:4, and then off we go.

Now, turn over to Jeremiah 17. Let me show you this contrasting passage. This is quite amazing. It has been a thing to me that I have never understood why nobody ever found it and made the comparison. Jeremiah 17:5-6 is something that will go along with Psalms 1:1-3, but it is a contrast. Now watch this, look at verse five:

Jeremiah 17:5-6

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

You can see in a heartbeat how that contrasts with Psalms 1. It is a thing where notice down here in verse six, it says that he lives in the desert. Look, it says, "and shall not see when good

cometh." I have tried to tell you this for the last four or five weeks. When you get to the mindset that you have lost your walk with God, and yet you still float this phony spirituality, and then you start to have problems with what God is really doing in somebody's life, the reason is right here: "and shall not see when good cometh." You cannot see what God is doing anymore. I have tried to tell you that for the last couple of weeks.

"But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness." That is exactly a great contrast to what we are going to see in Psalms when it talks about a tree planted by the river of waters. "A salt land." You know what it says, "salt land," nothing grows in a salt land. In other words, you have no fruit. What a great contrast this is between the two passages. Psalms 1 will deal with the blessings of God of walking with Him. Jeremiah 17:5 deals with the curse of God when you do not walk with Him.

Now I get it. I can hear some of God's people right now, especially the Pharisee section. "Well, I am a Christian. I cannot be under a curse." No, you are wrong. Oh yes, you can. Listen, your soul may be free from the curse of sin, clearly laid out in the book of Romans, but your flesh is not. Romans 8:1. I am telling you right now, when you walk after the flesh, look at this guy up here in verse five. It says, "he maketh flesh his arm." You notice when it says, "he maketh flesh his arm," the word "strength" is not found in that verse. You know why? Because when you follow the flesh and the flesh is your arm, you have no strength because your strength has to come from walking with the Lord. What a great contrast verse.

So when you walk after the flesh and not after the spirit, what you do is you fall back under the curse of the flesh because you are not in the spirit. You are not following the Spirit of God. Your arm now is the flesh. So you walk after the flesh. All of the things that are against God in your flesh that are under the curse now come into your life. You know what else? Look at verse five: "and whose heart departed from the LORD." There you are. In its simplest form, this will be the state of God's people today. They will be in one of two areas of their life. One will have the blessings of God with the Spirit of God because they walk with God. The other has the curse of God through walking after their flesh. All you have to do to see what I am telling you is true is look at their lives with what God is doing here and what He is not doing over here.

It is just that simple. It is a thing where you cannot see God anymore. When good does come, you cannot see it. It all will, in the final analysis, come down to your attitude toward the Word of God. Bottom line, your attitude toward the book that God gave you.

III. The Centrality of God's Word

In Baptist churches down through history, not so much today, they do it, but they do not understand why. The Word of God was the centerpiece of the church. In Protestant churches, if you go back and you look at the history of the church, you will find that a lot of the Protestant churches, the pulpit was over here on the side. Sometimes it was on this side and it was elevated up higher than where the people were. The pastor stood up there and lectured the people, or he was on this side and he lectured the people. The reason why he is high on this side goes back to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans that you find in church history, that the priest class was now

elevated above the common people. But in Baptist churches, the pulpit was always in the center, right in the middle, because they wanted everybody to know that the centerpiece of the church was the Word of God. The Baptist put it right in the middle.

The model for this is found in Nehemiah 8. In Nehemiah 8, not only do you find the model for this, but you have the seven key aspects and attitudes that a church should have toward the Word of God and what God's people should have too. This is where it starts. Of course, in any church, the Word of God should be the central aspect that is showcased by the pastor to his people. In this church, in all of my ministry, the Bible has been and always will be the center attraction of this church. It is not about anything else out there. It is not about something else that we put in front of that. It is about the Bible. The Bible has to be the centerpiece of everything that we do.

When you get on the website, I get emails all the time, and again, for what you allow us to do, we are known on the website, we are known across this country for the Bible that we preach. Many people do not like that. Many people take issue with that because they do not like the Bible that we have and preach, but that is okay. I learned this a long time ago. As long as God is pleased with what you are doing and what you are doing is honoring God and biblical in what you are doing, forget what everybody else thinks about it. Stay with the book. Stay, as the old saying is, "dance with the one you brung with." Stay with the book that God gave you. You do not want to come to the place where you think that there is something new now or better.

Everything that we do, I do not care if it is even the Halloween party. Sure, it is a fun time for the kids. We dress up, we have fun, we give out candy, but the bottom line is through that, there are families out there that are looking for a place for their children. When they come here and see what you do, that does not cost them a dime, but you pay for through your tithes and your offerings, you give that we can do it. It does not cost them a dime. They see the difference. When you give away candy free, give away hot dogs free, give away cider free, give away hot dogs free, you said hot dogs twice, I really like hot dogs. In time we will get to give the Word of God free. That is how it works. That is exactly how it works. Whatever we do, whether it be softball, volleyball, whatever the case, that is what we do.

In the Bible, you are going to find two great verses that show you the importance of the Word of God to us today. Again, I do not know why people do not see these things. I do not know why they do not understand these things. The first one is in Nehemiah 9. So let us flip back from Jeremiah and go to Nehemiah 9:5. It says there:

Nehemiah 9:5

Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

I am going to tell you something. I could take that verse right there and I could walk into any Neo-evangelical church, any Baptist church, anywhere in this city. I can quote that verse and everybody would say, "Amen, praise God, glory to God." You know what he just said there? He just told you right there that the name of Jesus is exalted above all blessing and praise. Who

would not agree with that? Everybody will agree with that. You will not get any argument on that.

Now, Psalms 138:2:

Psalms 138:2

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Now we pray in the name of Jesus. We talk about loving Jesus. We talk about "in Jesus' name" and all the things. And yet that Bible just told you. I could take Nehemiah 9:5 in any church in this city and they would agree with it. Try taking Psalms 138:2 in. He just told you that the name of Jesus Christ was exalted above all blessing and praise. Then he told you that He has magnified the Word of God above all His name. Now, what do you do with that? You know what most people do with that? Nothing, because they like to pick and choose out of the Bible what they want to believe.

My whole ministry could be summed up in just one thing I have tried to do here in all my years in the ministry, and that is to simply introduce you to the greatest book the world has ever seen, and to have you too fall in love with it, and to have you and your whole family enjoy the benefits of a love affair with the Word of God, walking daily with Him and enjoying the blessings. No, I am not such a fool that even though that is my desire and I work all my life to accomplish that, I know the reality of that is that not everybody is going to get it. Not everybody wants it.

IV. The Word of God as Manna

When I came through the book of Exodus a number of years ago, I saw immediately as I was putting my Bible together, you will find these on the outlines on the Bible, I saw how the book of Exodus chapter by chapter was an illustration, a picture of what my Christian life really was all about. Chapter by chapter I learned a different aspect about what happened the day I got saved. I remember reading down there in the first three or four chapters how that Israel was a picture of me and how they were under the bondage of sin of Egypt, a type of the world, with Pharaoh, a type of the devil. They were under tremendous bondage. It was a picture of the bondage that I was under before I got saved.

You know what the Bible says? Israel cried out to God. It was a time in my life, just like there was a time in your life, when you got tired of the burden of sin in your life and you cried out to God. You know what God did to the nation of Israel? He sent them a deliverer, Moses, a type of Christ. You know what He did for you and me? He sent you and me a deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we find that Israel comes out of the bondage of Egypt through the blood of the lamb put on the doorposts of the house. You and I came out of the bondage of sin by the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on Calvary's cross. Then you know what you have? Chapter 13, chapter 14, chapter 15, chapter 16, chapter 17, chapter 18, chapter 19, chapter 20. Every chapter from that

point on will show me, after I got saved, a different aspect of what I am now as a believer and what He wants me to understand.

You know what happens when you get into Exodus 16? It is the great chapter on God giving me the Word of God. You see, the children of Israel are out of Egypt now, but they are in the wilderness. There is nothing to eat, there is no water. They have problems with Moses because there is no water. So Moses has got to strike the rock and bring the water. They have no food. It is called the wilderness of sin. It is a picture that even after you and I get saved, we still have to live in this world.

But in Exodus 16, we saw what God gave them. We know it as the manna from heaven. The manna from heaven is a perfect type and a picture of the Word of God. It shows me the fact that after I got saved and I was in the wilderness, God knew there was nothing here to sustain me, so He brought me the manna from heaven. The book that I have in my heart, that you have in your lap, and I have on my pulpit today, the Word of God.

The manna was a supernatural gift from God. So is the Word of God that we have. You notice that God brought the manna right to where the people were. God brought the Word of God right to where you are at. They did not need some scholar or some rabbi or some this to go bring the manna. God brought it right to where the people were. God brought your Bible right to where you are sitting this morning. While they slept at night, the manna rained down like snow. When they got up in the morning, the manna, a type of the Word of God, was all over the ground, and it was the food, the supernatural food that God gave them. When they pulled back the tent flap and looked out there, there it was. Just like every morning when you open your eyes, the Word of God, the manna from heaven, God has something for you that He wants you to take into your life to get you through the day.

Just like there, some of them scooped up the manna God, and others just trampled it under their feet and did not take it. The Bible says that the guys that went out, they took baskets and they filled it up, and the manna was only good for that day. You could not get manna that was going to last you tomorrow because God's Word has to be fresh every day. Just like the bread in the priest had to be baked every morning. It required work. It just did not stand there and the manna fell in their mouth. They had to labor to pick it up. They had to bend over. They had to do the work. Just like here, you have to do the work. God gave it to you. He brought it to you. But it is not going to just fall into your mouth. You know what the Bible says? Some gathered more and some gathered less.

My desire for every one of you is to have a walk with God. My desire for every one of you is to know that Bible so good that it will preserve you, your ark, your family. I am not under the illusion that in any church, some will gather more and some will gather less. Some people just will not do it. Some people just are not going to do it. But what a great lesson that was for me as I learned it and I saw it. Now today, we see the next part of chapter one found in verse two. There will be three. This is the second one. We see really the real key to it all, I think.

V. Key Words for Delight in God's Law

In this next verse, we are going to find again, three key words. This is what you do when you try to unlock the Bible. You read it, do not get creative, do not get goofy on me. Just look at the words that are in it that stand out, that the verses build around. In verse two, our first word is, "and his delight is in the law of the Lord." The key word here is going to be "delight." What do we delight ourselves with?

We all delight ourselves with a lot of things, and it is okay. Life is okay to have things that you enjoy, things that you are delighted in. I get that, it is okay. But the word "delight" means to take great pleasure in something. That means to be greatly pleased and to rejoice in something. For a Christian, when you really understand what you have in the Word of God, and I will be honest with you, this is why I go to such great lengths to teach you the Bible. This is why like Thursday night, when I laid out those things about, I do not remember what we laid out, but it was really good. All those things that we laid out, all those things that we go through, the time that I take, they show you the type, they show you how they go together, they show you how it all pieces together, they show you the great picture and the pieces of that picture.

One reason that you will see and understand the greatest book the world has ever seen is the Bible you have in your lap today. When it becomes your most prized possession and you delight yourself in it, I am not saying you do not enjoy other things, but nothing supersedes the Bible that God gave you. When you realize what you have in the Word of God, nothing or nobody will ever take it from you. It will become your most prized possession because it is where your delight is.

You want to see if a Christian really loves the Bible? Fact check. Now I know I give you five, six years before I would even apply this to anybody. Many of you are already doing this, but if you just want, take a Christian that has been saved 10, 15, 20 years, you want to see what the Bible really means to him? Just look at the notes they put in their Bible. Now God is not going to do this. He would not do this. This is not how it was going to happen, but He could if He wanted to. It is a judgment to Christ. If He just wanted to check out where we are at with the book, all He would have to do is say, "Bob, let me see your Bible."

I remember one time years ago at a Thursday night Bible study, and this is a good lesson for me. I had just gotten a new wide margin Bible. To me, I am thinking that the key to my relationship or learning the Bible is a wide margin Bible. Well, it is because that is where you start. But we were at a Thursday night Bible study and Mel Sabaka, my father-in-law, he came in, to teach the Bible study, and he had been someplace else or whatever. He forgot his Bible. We did not have his Bible. I am standing there and he says, "Oh man," he says, "I left my Bible in the other car." I said, "Me, my new wide margin Bible," I handed it up to him and said, "Hey, you can use this." You know what he did? He took it, flipped through it, said, "I cannot use this, there is nothing in it."

Now that taught me something. It taught me that the only thing about your Bible that makes it valuable is what God gives you that you put in it. It is a thing where that is, if God wanted to, all He would have to do is the gentleman's either cry and say, "Okay, let me see your Bible." Every note will represent a moment in time. Every note that you put in your Bible, and I would give

you five, six years, and you get to get it all figured out. Please, if you are a younger Christian, just skip this part, fast forward it. Well, you cannot fast forward it, but just hold your ears. But every note in that Bible will represent a moment you and God had together and He gave you something. Because the Bible was your delight, because it was so special in your life, you recorded it into your Bible.

We use wide margin Bibles here. Almost everybody has got one. Sooner or later, you will get one probably. They are getting harder to find. We lost our great source for them, and we have got to scrounge for them, just like there are not too many of them around anymore. I take a lot of flack, and some of you do, over our stand on the King James Bible. The fact that people do not like it. There are 60 plus other English translations out there of the Bible, other than the King James Bible in English. Everybody likes them. I mean, they do. But I am going to tell you right now, ever notice that nobody buys a wide margin NIV? Oh, that is a simple little thing. Ever notice why nobody buys a wide margin EMB? Or a Zondervan, or an ESV, or a CSB, or they have got so many initials on these things, man, I will tell you.

Now you can get a study Bible. You can get a John MacArthur study Bible. I had a guy one time and he says to me, "Hey, look at this, what do you think of this brother? I got a John MacArthur study Bible." John MacArthur for a long, long time was a great radio preacher. I think he is dead now. But John MacArthur never believed the Bible was the Word of God one day in his life. You know how he wound up his life in the last 20 years of ministry? He became a Calvinist. And that is your study Bible? The guy that was in charge of the Southern Baptist Convention down there, the good side of it, Charles Stanley, you know, they put out one of his study Bibles. Now, Charles Stanley was a good guy and I am not knocking him for anything in the world, but I will tell you this, Charles Stanley never believed there was an absolute perfect Bible and plan of work. Neither did Criswell, none of them. So when you buy their study Bibles, you are paying for whatever translation you get and the extra money you are paying is for Kool-Aid notes. The scholarly world will tell you what the verse means. So you do not have to get with the Holy Spirit of God and God in an intimate relationship and let Him tell you.

The greatest truth of the King James Bible is the Word of God is the Bible that most of you are holding in your hand. If I looked at it today, it is packed with notes, packed with types, packed with this, packed with that. Some of you have got so many notes in it that it looked like it is a spaghetti dinner without the sauce. You never see that at an NIV. Why? God is not going to give you anything. You have got to buy the scholarly Kool-Aid notes. God sure is not going to give you anything. That is why you do not see any. Well, to be honest, when is the last time you got a guy come up with an NIV or ASV or an NBCDFG and open that up and they said, "Look at all the notes that God gave me," never happened. And yet you have got the Word of God.

When you go to one of their Bible studies, they will sit around and they will read a passage and then somebody will say, "Okay, now what do you think it means?" Then the next person will say, "Well, what do you think it means?" There may be 10 or 12 people there and everybody will get a chance to say what they think it means. The bottom line is who cares what you think it means? What does the Bible say?

Right up 12th Street here, when you get on Highway 7, almost straight across, there is a little pizza place, Italian place, great pizza, great Italian food. Been there for years, run by an Italian family. Bill Chopper Whopper or something like that. But anyway, it is a great place. I was up there, I do not know what we were doing here at the church, but I had some time and I was hungry. So I went up there and got me a couple of slices of pizza. I am sitting there in the corner and at the table over here, there are eight guys having a Bible study. They are Christian guys, I am sure they were, Neo-evangelical, I am sure. But there was one guy that was leading it and they were studying the book of Revelation.

Now I am sitting there eating my pizza, but I am from here to there, I can hear everything they are saying. So the guy comes to Revelation 9:1, where it says:

Revelation 9:1

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

He looks at them and he says, "That is a very strange passage." He says, "I do not think anybody really can tell you what that is." Now I am stuffing pizza in my mouth so fast to keep me from saying something. I mean, I should have got four pieces instead of two, because I wanted to wheel around and say, "Hey," but you cannot do that. It would not have agreed anyhow. So you know what he did? Right there when I just told you. He sat around and he says, "Well, what do you think it means?" to the first guy. "Well, gee, I do not know, it could be," and then second, "Well, what do you think?" He went around to everybody. You know what he said at the end? He said, "Well, this is one of these places where anybody's opinion is as good as the other opinion, because we will probably never really be able to know for sure."

Now that time I am not eating pizza, I am choking on it. I am thinking to myself, here you have eight or nine guys who are trusting you to give them the Bible. You cannot even figure out Revelation 9:1, the key to the bottomless pit, a star fall from heaven, the key to that star falling from heaven. We will be back in Matthew 2 and Matthew 4 and then back in Genesis. I mean, you could walk that thing through so clearly, but this is what you have today. You do not have to tell me I have got the right Bible. I know I have got the right Bible for the idiots who are out there to try to teach it that want to say they are better than mine and their Bible is closer to the originals in Mayan and it is closer to God, yet you are so far from God and figuring it out.

I asked you this morning, what is your delight in life today? I really like QuickTrip. I wish you would have stayed there. If I had to go get a job, I would like working at QuickTrip. It is moving fast all the time. I really like it, but I will tell you what drives me nuts at QuickTrip is when you have got a cup of coffee and you are going to pay for it and the guy in front of you has to buy 40 of the tickets, those scratch and sniff ones. Now I am not kidding you. My coffee is getting cold. This guy bought five. He actually won \$100. He just thought he just won a lottery. I am standing behind him and this is him. You know, you have got to, I guess you, I do not know about one, but I guess you have got to, oh, you know how to do that. No, no, okay. But here is what he is doing. I am not kidding you. Here is what he is doing. He is into it. He is into it. I am thinking to myself, what is your problem? Okay, you bought four or five, get over to the side, scratch and

sniff them over there if you want and then let the old guy, if you want anything. This guy is standing here. He is just all excited. On the fourth or the fifth one, he won \$100.

Now, I am looking at this guy and I am thinking, I am thinking what an absolute idiot. They know what God did. The Holy Spirit of God always teaches me stuff like this. He says, "What is your problem?" I said, "What do you mean with my problem? This guy is an idiot up here." He says, "That is where his delight is." He says, "Have you not done the same thing when I have given you something from the Word of God?" Maybe your rear end does not move as fast as his did, but you get something from it and you are just as happy. He won \$100. Every time I give you something out of the Bible, I give you a million bucks. Yeah, where is your delight? What are you delighting in today?

Our second key word. "And his delight is in the law of the Lord." Now note, it does not say in this verse that his delight is in His word or thy word or the Word of God. It says, "his delight is in the law." Now, why does it say that? I will tell you why, because you just do not love the things about God's Word that you like or go your way. You have got to love the things in the Word of God that rebuke you. You have got to love the things in the Word of God that correct you. You have got to love the things in the Word of God that instruct you. You have got to love the law. The things that keep us accountable.

You know, in life as a human being living in Kansas City, the best way to go through life is to be a law-abiding citizen. As a Christian, the best way to go through life is to be a law-abiding child of God. Ever notice how a lot of God's people that have problems in their life, they will recognize all the problems they do not have and work on the things that they do not need to work on, but they will never work on the things that really need to be fixed. You know why? Their delight is not in the law. You know what Paul said in Romans 7:22? He says:

Romans 7:22

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Paul knew that the law of God is what kept us accountable, kept us right, kept us in our walk. Now your flesh and my flesh will have absolutely no appreciation for any rebuke of God. You can always tell what kind of Christian you are dealing with by how they take rebuke and correction when God has to deal with them on it. Your flesh will never enjoy that, but the inner man will. A Christian who is walking with God and has the blessings of God will know and understand that the law of God is vital to his walk. You do not just love the Word of God for the things you like, but the things you do not necessarily like to hear about yourself, but need to hear it so you can fix it to keep your walk.

It is like James 1:22-23. When we look into the Word of God, it is like a man looking into a looking glass and beholding his natural face. The Word of God shows you and me what we are really like. Now we all dress up this morning, perfume up, powder up, do all the things that we all look good when we come to church, but you know what? When you look into that book, it just strips everything off and it shows you who you really are. The Bible says that some people go their way and forget what manner of man he was. They do not want to hear it. This is where

you begin to find God's people who will now pick and choose out of the Bible what they like. Oh, they will pick the things out of there that suits what they want to do. But if they want to do something outside of the guidelines of the Word of God, then they will never pick that.

Understanding every book, every chapter, every verse is there to help me to be to God, everything I need to be. As the word "delight" defines itself, so should we take great pleasure in the law of God. The Bible tells me in Hebrews 12:10-11:

Hebrews 12:10-11

For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

You see, a mature Christian understands that. He realizes that just like with your kids as parents, your kids get out of line sometime because you are good parents, you have got to bring them back in line. Well, it is no different with us than God, and we are all going to get out of line sometimes. That is why I told you in 2 Timothy 3:16, that great passage, and we talked about it a lot:

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The thing it is profitable for first is doctrine. I told you, doctrine shows you what is right, and it will also show you what is wrong. Then the second thing it is profitable for is reproof. It will show you what is wrong in your life. The third thing is correction. It will show you how to fix what is wrong in your life. Then instructions in righteousness shows you how to keep it fixed. You see, you cannot just love the Bible for the things that are nice to you.

Ever notice a lot of kids, if you deal with them, sometimes you see it in the nursery here, they are the nicest kids on the planet until you have got to deal with them on something. There are a lot of God's people that way. There are a lot of God's people who are the nicest, friendliest people on this planet, right up to the point that you have to deal with them on something and then you see what you really get. This is the importance of good, solid preaching and the danger, which we find today, of just teaching. A good pastor should be able to do both. He should be able to teach and be able to preach. He can even have the ability to blend the two of them together in the same message and nobody knows what he is doing, but he is getting his point across. Preaching will reprove. It gives you doctrine, it shows you what is right and it shows you what is wrong. Teaching then will show you the correction, the instruction in righteousness, the end result. In 2 Timothy 3:16, it says that the man of God is perfect, truly furnished, all good works. Here again, the balance in ministry.

But you cannot go through life not delighting yourself in the law. "Oh, I just love the Bible." Do you? Do you love the things about the Bible? Proverbs 27:7 tells us:

Proverbs 27:7

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

That is the place we need to get in our lives. A full soul is full of the world, full of self, full of who we think we are. The hungry soul, the hungry soul that wants to have a relationship with God, every bitter thing is sweet. That is the key. So we delight ourselves in the law. You say, "Now Bob, where do I start to learn that?" Well, the thing I do is in the Bible, there are seven fundamental laws that the Bible is built on. I would start with that. You know what? When you come through those seven laws, those seven laws will branch out and touch every other law that we have to deal with in our Christian life. It is just that simple. But that is where you would start. That is where you have got to start.

Now, our third key word will be the word "meditate." "But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law doth he meditate day and night." One of my favorite passages that I saw years and years and years ago was just a simple little thing over there in Luke 2:19. When it was talking about Mary and she is being told all that God is going to do with her, which was pretty overwhelming. She is sitting there and listening and trying to absorb it all and take it all in. I have always thought to myself that that is the case of many young Christians when they come to church maybe on Sunday morning or a Thursday night Bible study and it gets overwhelming sometimes until you get your feet on the ground and we can help you get there. I understand that.

But for me, when I was your spiritual age and I was overwhelmed with things, God gave me that verse because it says there that Mary is listening to everything that is being told her. Then the Bible simply says:

Luke 2:19

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Sometimes when God gives you something and you get something from God, the meditation is just pondering in your heart what God just gave you. It does not mean you understand it all. It does not mean you figure it all out. But it means you trust God enough, you know He is not only going to give you what is going to help you and you are patient enough to wait for God to develop it for you. So you just ponder, you meditate.

For me, anyhow, here is how it works. During the day, you read your Bible. Some of you read it in the morning. Some of you get up early and read it. Or some of you listen to it online or through your phone. That is great, I appreciate that. Then in the evening, we should be thinking about what God gave you that day and meditate on it in the evening and night. Now, within this process, if I were you, I would tell God at least a hundred times how much you love Him, but that is another sermon.

In time, you will develop what I call a God consciousness. God will bring your thoughts into captivity, 2 Corinthians 10:5. Then Job 33:16 tells us that at nighttime, He seals your instructions for the next day. Now I can attest to how that works. Monday morning I get up and I start putting my sermon together for next week. Many times there have been passages where I have looked at

it in the afternoon and I thought to myself, "What am I going to do with that? I mean, I have got to get 45, 50 minutes out of this thing here. I could do this in 10 seconds. I have got to be more here, God," and so on. But I do not worry about it. I do not fret myself over it and think about, "Well, what am I going to say?" Here is what I have learned to do. I just commit it to the Lord. Last thing I do before I go to bed is I read that passage and I say, "Okay, God, here it is." You know what? I will wake up at five o'clock in the morning and I will have that outline clearly and printed in my mind that all I have got to do is go down and put it on paper. You know why? Because that is what He does. That is what He will do for you.

It becomes a classroom all day long. You walk through life, you see things, you experience things, good or bad, where you work, the people you hang out with or the people you associate with. You learn from everything and you use the Bible principles that God gives you to understand it and then you meditate on it. You know what God does? He teaches you by it. He will use every event in your life to show you the principles by which He wants you to learn. About people, how to deal with circumstances. The best person to deal with other people's personal problems and become a really good counselor is one, learn the principles of the Word of God and then two, watch people's lives who go against the principles of the Word of God. It is just that simple.

When you ponder those things, when you meditate on the Word of God, when the principles that you get, you actually think about them. You do not just put them back in a notebook and forget about them. You actually use them and God will take them and God will show you through the things that you see during the day. Most of God's people, they are so oblivious to what God is doing around them. He cannot teach them anything. Most of them are not getting any principles to begin with. Through that process, you will start to see what God is doing in everything you do during the day. Your day becomes God's classroom. God showing you and teaching you throughout your day and then pondering in your heart, meditating on what He does show you and then learning from it, growing through it. It all comes down to your attitude toward the Word of God.

All this is based on just three key words: the word "delight," the word "law," and the word "meditate." And your attitude toward the Word of God. Job said it better than I ever could when he said in Job 23:12, as he was going through his trials of life, he says:

Job 23:12

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Attitude toward the Word of God. It will all come down to what you delight yourself in. It will all come down to your attitude about the part of the Word of God that is going to keep you accountable to help you grow. It is all going to come down to your meditation, about your manna from heaven.

VI. The Desire for God's Wisdom

Two of my favorite stories that I have used for years and years and years. Some of you have heard it before, bear with me. I have used these two illustrations for years and years and years that try to illustrate the importance of the Word of God to people. The first story is about a young man who lived over in the Middle East someplace back in the three, 400 years ago. There was a knowledgeable man. It was a wise man, a guru, if you would please. Everybody went to him for wisdom and knowledge. He was the wisest man that anybody had ever heard, seen or talked to. He had the answer seemingly to every life problem.

This little boy was growing up and he was in awe. He would hear all of his life from his parents and other people how great the wisdom was for this man. When he got to be about 19 or 20 years old, the desire to be like this man was overwhelming. He went to this man and knocked on his door. The old wise man opened up the door and invited him in. In the conversation, the young man said that he wanted to become his student, that he wanted to learn the secrets of life and knowledge and all the wisdom that this old man had. He brought up the case that you will not live forever and someone needs to be there when you pass off the scene. The old man just listened and nodded.

So he told him, he says, "Well," he says, "I can appreciate your desire and I think that you may be a possibility of a candidate." He says, "Why do not we start the process this afternoon? Why do not you come back around four o'clock?" The young man went on his way. Oh, he is just beside himself. I mean, he thinks he has got it, man. I mean, you can just see it now. He is going to get him a robe and he is going to walk around and be with thing, you know, guru and talk to everybody and everybody is going to come to him. So on his way back at four o'clock, he is thinking, there is going to be some big guru ceremony here. You know, it is going to be a lot of people there and I am going to get a guru belt or something, you know, or guru hat, you know, or maybe a t-shirt says, "I want to be a guru too," and things like that.

So he gets back at four o'clock, nobody is there. The old man says, "Are you ready, little grasshopper? Are you ready?" This is where all this comes from. You just have got to put it all together. So he says, "Yeah." So he takes him down and there is a large lake or a body of water there. The old man takes him by the hand and they walk out there. Now the kid is thinking, "Oh, he is going to, I am getting baptized, I am going to get, you know, he is going to kind of ceremonially." So he takes him up there and the old man gets him out there and the old man is collaring him. He gets him up where the water is just about right here. The kid is all ready to go. He is getting ready to ask him what is next. When he does, that old guy puts his hands on both his heads. Both his hands on his head. And throws him under the water. Then puts his leg down on him so he cannot get up. Air bubbles are coming. He did not get a lot of air when he went down. He is holding on and the old man can feel him struggling and that thing and that. The old man, he knows probably done this before. Right before this kid is ready to die, the old man lets him pop to the surface and he throws him over here and lays him on the beach and just stands there like this.

The kid is puking, throwing up water, coughing, everything. In between spits and sputters, he is yelling at this guy, "What is wrong with you, you maniac? I thought you were the wisest man in the world. I was honest with you. I was sincere with you. I came to you wanting to get the secrets

of life and help you. And this is what, what is your problem? This is the stupidest thing I have ever been in my life. You, I was so wrong to come to you. What is your problem?" The old man just looked at him. Then the old man said this. "You want wisdom? You want knowledge? You want the keys and understanding of everything in life? Well, young man, when you want knowledge and wisdom, as much as you wanted air when you were drowned, only then will you get it."

You want the Bible? You want the Word of God? You want the wisdom to be able to help people and deal with people and God to use you only when you want that Bible like you want your next breath of air. "His delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

VII. The Key to Learning the Bible

My second story. I was preaching someplace, I forget where it was. It has been a long time ago. We had a Bible study afterwards and the church was a really good church, King James Church, and they really wanted to learn the Bible. So they wanted to meet afterwards and ask me questions about things in the Bible, which is fine. So we are here down there, we are talking and it is going a good time. This young guy, he says, "Brother Bob," he says, "I would like you to help me." He says, "I really want to learn the Bible." He says, "I really want to know the Bible." He says, "I really enjoyed being here this week and listening all you got to say." He says, "I just really have a desire that I want to learn the Bible." He says, "So can I ask you a few questions?" I said, "Sure, son, go ahead." He says, "Well, I guess to really learn the Bible," he says, "I guess what I have got to do is just read the Bible." He says, "I have heard you and Mel Sabaka talk about reading the Bible through every 30 days or something like that." So he says, "I guess the real key to that is just reading through the Bible." I said, "No," I said, "that is, I said, well, reading the Bible is obviously important, but the key to learning the Bible is not reading it."

He said, "Oh, okay." The guy next to him raised his hand and he said, "Well, to help him out here, I would say probably that the key to really learning the Bible is studying it." I said, "Well, the Bible says to study thyself approved. But I said, the real key to learning the Bible is not studying it." The third guy raised his hand and he says, "Yeah," he says, "I think that the, probably the key to learning the Bible is just, you know, working with people, coming to church, getting involved in ministry and then let the Lord just teach you through all of that stuff." I said, "Well, that is all really important. But I said, that is not the key to learning the Bible. I said, you are going to have to read the Bible, but the key to learning your Bible is not reading it. You are going to have to study your Bible, but the key to learning your Bible is not studying it. You are going to have to work with people and get in ministry, but that is not the key to learning the Bible."

The key to learning the Bible is loving it, loving it more than anything on this planet, that it becomes the desire of your life. It becomes what you meditate in. It becomes so part of you that even the bitter things are sweet. It becomes everything that God has for you. You recognize that, and it is the key to your walk with God, which is the key to the blessings of God, which is the key to your rewards that you receive a full reward. So I said, the key is not reading it, not

studying it, not ministry, the key, loving it. Because if you love it, you will learn it. That is our second one. Next week, verse three, "and he shall be like a tree planted by the river of water." That is where we will hold up there. Please do not forget the sign.