

SWEETER THAN HONEY

Psalm 119:97-104

INTRODUCTION

- A. Thoughts on Wisdom.
 - 1. Wisdom defined: The ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight.
 - 2. Albert Einstein, “Any fool can know. The point is to understand.”
- B. Wisdom in the Bible.
 - 1. The word wisdom or a form of the word is used almost 1000 times in Scripture, 370 times in what we refer to as the Books of Wisdom.
 - 2. Wisdom [Hebrew] defined: A mastery of the art of living in accordance with God’s expectations.
 - a. Wisdom is a ***process*** of attainment, NOT an accomplishment.
 - b. Safe to say, we will NEVER arrive at wisdom.

I. THE CALL FOR WISDOM.

- A. Proverbs 8:1-11, 22-32
 - 1. Wisdom was from the beginning of time.
 - 2. Calls to all who will listen – a choice.
 - 3. Blessed are those who get and keep “wisdom”.
- B. God’s Wisdom:
 - 1. Wiser than enemies, vs. 98.
 - a. Understanding from God is the best instruction.
 - b. Because it gives better understanding of God, God’s law, the duties in life and in regard to life to come.
 - c. Not because the psalmist was better, but because God makes wiser.
 - d. The best instruction is the revealed word of God.
 - 2. Insight more than my teachers, vs. 99.
 - a. Over years we progress in our wisdom.
 - b. The more we study God’s word, the wiser [than teachers] we become.
 - c. Following the example of others, Philippians 3:17 (ref. vss. 12-16).
 - 3. Understand More Than the Aged, vs. 100.
 - a. The Hebrew word “aged” is lit., “old man.”
 - b. The “elderly” have treasured up wisdom, through experience and observation.
 - c. Job 12:12, “*Wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding.*”
 - d. Proverbs 20:29, “*The glory of young men is their strength, and the honor of old men is their gray hair.*”

II. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

- A. I Love Your Law, vs. 97.
 - 1. This love is an intense love for God’s Law.
 - 2. It is my meditation all the day. (Psalm 1:2 adds “delight”.)
 - 3. The theme of Psalm 119, could easily be “*The Love of God’s Law*”.
 - 4. But it is more than just a love of the Law, it is a longing for a relationship with God.

B. Demanding Obedience.

1. It is a relationship demanding obedience.
 - a. Throughout this section there is reference to obedience.
 - b. Vs. 98, "...it [commandments] is ever with me."
 - c. Vs. 100, "...Because I have observed Your precepts."
 - d. Vs. 101, "I have restrained my feet ... That [So] I may keep Your Word."
 - e. Vs. 102, "I have not turned from Your ordinances..."
2. And it is no different today. God still demands our obedience.
 - a. Psalm 111:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; ..."
 - b. John 15:10, "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love."
 - c. 1 John 2:3

C. Can We Know if We Are Growing?

1. It can be measured, 2 Corinthians 13:5.
2. Being wise – is the ability to make the right choice and the right time.
 - a. Making the right choice on a consistent basis is a sign of maturity.
3. The Book of Proverbs describes characteristics [fruits] of wisdom.
4. The New Testament terms the fruits of "wisdom" the same as fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23.
5. James 3:13-18
6. It is based on a desire to follow and imitate God, as revealed in Christ.

D. Sweeter Than Honey.

1. "How sweet are Your words to my taste!", vs. 103.
 - a. This is the only time this form of the Hebrews word "sweet" appears in the Old Testament.
 - b. Oreos – can't just stop with one!
 - c. The way it should be with God's Word.
2. "From Your precepts I get understanding", vs. 104.
 - a. Therefore, I hate every false way.
 - b. Through God's Word we get true understanding, a correct view of things.
 - c. We get all that has been communicated through revelation.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
 - ii. 2 Timothy 3:15

CLOSING

A. Rise Up, O Men of God.

1. First time I heard the song – "Wise up ..."
2. Very fitting for the church today, "Wise up!"

B. May God's Word be "sweeter than honey" to us each day.

1. So that we may grow up in all aspects into Him, Eph. 4:15.