

Theme: The psalms help us to love God's word and to live in obedience to it.

I. Intro – What Are You Passionate About?

- A. Super Bowl Sunday – a lot of passion today!
- B. What are we really passionate about?
- C. The psalmist is passionate about God's Word!
- D. The psalms cultivate the Word in us

II. The Psalms and the Word of God

A. The consistent topic of the Word in Psalms

1. Statistics of "Scripture" words in Psalms

- a. תּוֹרָה (Law) – 36 – more than any other book
- b. עֵדוּת (Statutes; testimonies) – 19 times
- c. פְּקוּדֵי (Precepts) - 24 times
- d. חֹק (statute, decree) – 28 times
- e. מִצְוָה (Commands) - 26 times
- f. מִשְׁפָּט (judgments; laws) – 23 times
- g. דְּבָר (Word) (as Scripture) – 45 times
- h. אִמְרָה (word; promise) – 25 times

2. The Word – a consistent topic in Psalms!

B. The prominent place of the Word in Psalms

- 1. The structure – 5 books – Torah
- 2. The introductory psalm – Torah (1:2-3)
- 3. The longest Psalm – Torah!

C. The breadth of the Word in Psalms

- 1. Luther quote
- 2. Psalm 119 – acrostic – A to Z in Word!
- 3. Major doctrines; from every period; history

D. The promise of blessing from the Word in Psalms

- 1. Psalms speaks of the blessed life (Ps 1)
- 2. Blessed life comes from Word (1:2; 112:1; 119:1-2)

E. The passion for the Word in Psalms

- 1. Psalmist *loves* God's word! (97; 131; 163; 165; 174)
- 2. Passion via poetry
 - a. Poetry requires slow, careful reading & thought
 - b. Piper quote
 - c. Poetry – the language of passion (Batter my heart)

d. Poetry – the language revealing spirit of Word

III. Conclusion & Summary

A. Is the Word central in your life?

1. Note how central it is to the Psalms!
2. Is your life structured around the Word?
3. Do you turn to Word in all times & situations?

B. Are you passionate about the Word?

1. Can you say :O how I *love* your Word!?
2. If not, meditate on Psalms to get passion!

C. Do you want the blessed life – get in the Word!

1. It will show you what the blessed life is!
2. It will lead you to heart of God!
3. Blessing naturally follows!

The Psalms and the Word of God

Psalm 119:97

February 1, 2004

Response: Communion or Song???

Benediction: Ps 119:41 paraphrase

“May God’s unfailing love and blessings come to you; His salvation,
according to His Word”

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Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But **his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

Psalms 1:1-2

Praise the LORD. **Blessed** is the man who fears the LORD, **who finds great delight in his commands.**

Psalms 112:1

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, **who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes** and seek him with all their heart.

Psalms 119:1-2

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

Psalms 119:97

I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands.

Psalms 119:131

I hate and abhor falsehood but I love your law.

Psalms 119:163

Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Psalms 119:165

I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight.

Psalms 119:174

One of the reasons [I write poems...] is that I live with **an almost constant awareness of the breach between the low intensity of my own passion and the staggering realities of the universe around me--heaven, hell, creation, eternity, life, Jesus Christ, justification by faith, God. All of us (whether we know it or not) try to close this breach between the weakness of our emotions and the wonder of the world. Some of us do it with poetry.....**There is a deep relief that comes when we find a way of seeing and savoring some precious reality, then saying it in a way that comes a little closer to closing the breach between what we've glimpsed with our mind and what we've grasped with our heart. **It shouldn't be surprising that probably more than three hundred pages of the Bible were written as poetry, because one great aim of the Bible is to build a bridge between the prosaic deadness of the human heart and the inexpressible reality of the living God.**

John Piper

Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend
Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.
I, like an usurp'd town to'another due,
Labor to'admit you, but oh, to no end;
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly'I love you, and would be lov'd fain,
But am betroth'd unto your enemy;
Divorce me,'untie or break that knot again,
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,
Except you'enthrall me, never shall be free,
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

John Donne, 1572-1631, Holy Sonnet XIV