

The Word of God and Our Joy
Psalm 19:7-11

I. Introduction

A. Impetus for this message: Matthew 4:4 (Jesus is quoting Deut. 8:3).

1. What does it mean to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God?

a. There is a correlation between how we live our life and God's Word.

1). Luke 11:27-28 (ESV) As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

b. In other words, there is a correlation between God's Word and our joy!

B. Everyone is looking for joy/happiness. Where are you turning to find it?

II. Proposition

A. Because God's Word is true and righteous, it is more beneficial and desirable than wealth or food or anything else this world may offer us to make us happy.

III. Exposition

A. **The heavens declare the glory of God in a general way (19:1-6).**

1. This natural/general revelation only condemns; it does not save or impart life – Rom. 1:18-25.

B. **The Word of God reveals the identity of God in a specific and clear way (19:7-11).**

1. Yahweh – the covenant-making, covenant-keeping Lord who revealed Himself to Moses – Ex. 3:13-15.

a. ILLUS: The Law of the Lord (i.e., Yahweh: 19:7-9).

2. Because Yahweh is perfect, sure, right, pure, eternal, true and righteous, so is His word/law.

a. He created by His Word, sustains by His Word, communicates by His Word – Christ!

C. **God's true and righteous Word is more beneficial and desirable than anything this world may offer (19:10-11).**

1. Three benefits of the Word of God:

a. It imparts life (reviving the soul – 19:7a):

1). Psalm 119:25, 49-50, 93; James 1:18

a). ILLUS: Augustine, Martin Luther

b. It imparts wisdom (makes wise the simple-19:7b; enlightens the heart-19:8b):

1). Psalm 119:97-104, 130; Matthew 7:24-27

c. It imparts joy (rejoicing the heart-19:8a):

1). Proverbs 17:22; Psalm 119:111

2. Therefore, since God's Word imparts life, wisdom and joy; it is more beneficial and desirable than all the wealth and finest foods in the world (19:10).

a. John Piper: "The benefits of knowing and doing the Word of God are greater than all that money can buy. So if you're tempted to read the stock page before you read the Bible in the morning, remind yourself that this is not shrewd behavior. It's like the child who chooses the penny over the dime because it's bigger" (Sweeter than Honey, Jan 6, 1991).

b. Irony: People seek joy/happiness in wealth, fine foods, etc. . .

- D. **Those who live by God's Word and keep God's Word will receive a great reward (19:11).**
1. Now: Life, wisdom & joy! But there is eternal reward: James 1:12, 25.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Where are you turning in your quest to find joy/happiness?
1. Money, food, sex, career, fame? All this is vanity!
2. We must turn to God and His Word for true Joy – Psalm 4:6-8; 16:5-11
- B. Where are you turning to overcome the darkness in your life?
1. Magazines, books, Oprah, Dr. Phil, drugs, alcohol?
2. We must turn to God and His Word if we are to get out of the darkness – Hab 3:17-19; Psalm 30:1-5
- C. We are to meditate on God's Word day and night that we may have life and wisdom and joy.
1. **Psalm 119:147-148 (ESV)**
I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I hope in your words.
¹⁴⁸My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,
that I may meditate on your promise.
2. Bible Reading Plans, Reading Bibles, etc.
- D. As we meditate on God's Word and live by God's Word, we will walk in wisdom and joy!

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