

## Word of God

O how I love Your law; it is my meditation all the day - Ps.119:97

*Over the past forty-seven years, these are the passages that have most significantly formulated my devotion to the written Word of God and to Him who sent it.*

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Write this in the book as a memorial and place it in the ears of Joshua...’” [Ex.17:14; cf. Ex.24:4; 34:27; Deut.31:24-26]. *The Lord’s Word is preserved in durable written fashion spanning generations.*

“You shall not add to the Word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you” [Deut.4:2; cf. Deut.12:32; Prov.30:5,6; Rev.22:18]. *God’s Word is not to be trifled with. Only the Lord can add to His Word. If we add, we have introduced faulty human wisdom. If we take away, we proclaim that God is mistaken, we know better than He, and we need not obey.*

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These Words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently ...You shall therefore lay up these Words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes...” [Deut.6:5-7; 11:18]. *Love for God is integrally interwoven with the Word dwelling richly within the heart issuing in obedience and proclamation of it. Every facet of one’s thinking and action is to be influenced and governed by the Word.*

“...man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord” [Deut.8:3; Matt.4:4]. *The Word of God is spiritual sustenance that must be ingested regularly on a daily basis if we would live and thrive.*

“Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe to do, even all the words of this law. For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days...” [Deut.32:46,47]. *All of the Word of God is to be taken into my heart and obeyed. It is not a casual, trivial, or irrelevant revelation; it is my life.*

“Be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success [act wisely] wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it [literally, chew the cud] day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” [Josh.1:7,8]. *The Word of God in its entirety is to be constantly reflected upon, chewing it over repeatedly, to extract every nutrient, and obeyed in its every particular. There is no other wisdom or success. To turn even ever so slightly from it, displeases Him who spoke it and endangers him who receives it.*

“Then the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel

said, ‘Speak, for Your servant is listening’” [I Sam.3:10]. *When God speaks, I must listen.*

“Why have you despised the Word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight?” [2 Sam.12:9]. *To knowingly do evil is to despise the Word of the Lord and Him who spoke it.*

“Ezra had set his heart to study/seek the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel” [Ez.7:10]. *My heart is set to diligently inquire from and do the Word of the Lord, and to make His Word known to others.*

“I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food” [Job 23:12]. *I have kept the way of the Lord; His commands are my delight, yes, they are more desired than what sustains this body; they are my treasure.*

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting/restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes...the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; and in keeping them there is great reward” [Ps.19:7-11]. *This perfect Word renews the inner man, imparts wisdom, rejoices my heart, and enlightens my eyes. Altogether righteous, there is nothing to compare to this Word of God in richness and satisfaction.*

‘The Lord nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation’ [Ps.33:10,11]. *There is wisdom from below, and wisdom from above. That Divine wisdom from above contained in his Word cancels all of that proceeding from below.*

“In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?” [Ps.56:10,11]. *Yes, O Lord, I praise Your Word and I praise You for giving it. My trust is in You according as You have spoken in Your Word. I have never been disappointed.*

*The entirety of Ps.119 has deeply saturated my heart. O how magnificent is Your Word, O Lord. I shall never cease to bless You for this magnificent and unspeakably precious light to my path. Specifically, these verses have deeply influenced my heart.*

“Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against You” [v.11]. *Yes, it is treasured there as a rarest prize. Its richness guards my heart from sin.*

“Your testimonies also are my delight, and [literally] the men of my counsel” [v.24]. *The testimony of Your Word has enraptured my heart. In it, I commune with the wisdom of the ages. I consult Moses and David, Solomon and Isaiah, Paul and John, Peter and Luke; Yes, every and all of the men through whom You have entrusted Your precious Word, they are my counselors.*

“I shall delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, which I love; and I will meditate on Your statutes” [v.47,48]. *O how I love*

*Your Word! They delight my heart. I lift up my hands to cling to and honor Your exalted Word.*

“Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled/stands firm in heaven” [v.89]. *The Word stands firm, unshaken, immovable, forever enduring, and forever relevant despite the raging assaults against it and the slovenly disregard of it here below. Bless You, Lord, for its everlasting reliability.*

“I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation” [v.99]. *The accumulated wisdom of man, however well intentioned, cannot compare to being taught by You, my God, from Your wondrous Word.*

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” [v.105]. *Nothing and no one else can illumine my path and direct my steps.*

“Therefore I love Your commandments above gold, yes, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way” [v.127,128]. *Yes, Lord, Your Word is correct in its every declaration about all things. Because I love your Word, I hate every false way, every devious substitute, every pernicious twisting of Your forthright revelation.*

“The sum of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting” [v.160]. *O Lord, every component part is truth; not one is error. In its entirety, added together, we have comprehensive truth, a spectrum of revelation regarding the totality of life and eternity. Every one of Your righteous ordinances contained in Your Word abides everlastingly.*

“I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your Word above all Your name” [Ps.138:2]. *Here, O Lord, Your Word is exalted; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. It is to be revered. It is on par with Your name. O may my heart not profane Your Word from the lofty place You have accorded it.*

“Turn to My reproof, behold, I will pour out My Spirit on you, I will make My Words known to you” [Prov.1:23]. *O how You long to make Your Words known unto us, O Lord. But we must repent. We must turn from folly, from man’s wisdom, in order for the gracious Spirit from on high to be poured out to illumine Your Word to our hearts.*

“Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge; for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you. Let them all be fixed upon you lips, so that your trust may be in the Lord. I have taught you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, to make you know the truth of the Words of truth, that you may return Words of truth to those who send to you?” [Prov.22:17-21]. *Yes, Lord, You are correct; it is pleasant to keep Your Word within my heart and ever present on my tongue. Because of this, I trust You. You have made known to me the truth of Your Words of truth. And I thus can return Words of truth to those who inquire. This is ministry indeed.*

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them” [Isa.8:20]. *Let Your Word, O Lord, be my sole message without admixture. “...but to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at*

My Word” [Isa.66:2]. *O Lord, look upon me; my heart is broken with longings after Your commandments at all times; I tremble at Your Word, as that which causes that clean fear of You, enduring forever.*

“To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Behold, their ears are uncircumcised and they cannot listen. Behold, the Word of the Lord has become a reproach to them; they have no delight in it” [Jer.6:10]. *My heart aches, O Lord, at the calloused of heart who disdain the Words of the living God which are my delight.*

“Your Words were found and I ate them, and Your Words became for me a joy and the rejoicing of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts” [Jer.15:16]. *I eat, and eat, and eat again, and my heart is full of rejoicing at Your most excellent Word, the very food of life.*

“I did not send these prophets, but they ran. I did not speak to them, but they prophesied. But if they had stood in My council, then they would have announced My Words to My people, and would have turned them back from their evil way and the from the evil of their deeds” [Jer.23:21,22]. *I have stood with You, O Lord, and heard Your counsel. May it never be that I announce anything to men but what I have seen and heard there, even Your Words.*

“The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My Word speak My Word in truth! What does straw have in common with grain,’ declares the Lord. ‘Is not My Word like fire?’ declares the Lord, ‘and like a hammer which shatters a rock?’” [Jer.23:28,29]. *Here I tremble, O Lord, for Your Word must be proclaimed in truth! Let its light consume the chaff and its weight shatter the stony pretense of men!*

“Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.’ So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll. He said to me, ‘Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you.’ Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth. Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My Words to them’ [Ezek.3:1-4]. *I have eaten, O Lord, my body is full of Your Word. Yes, it is sweet as honey, nourishing and delightful. I will speak thus to Your people.*

“A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?” [Amos 3:8]. *Yes, Lord, You have spoken. Your Word has entered and filled my heart. I can do nothing but prophesy what I have seen and heard therein. Woe unto me if I do not.*

“For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel - these are the eyes of the Lord which range to and fro throughout the earth” [Zech.4:10]. *Rejoice O eyes of the Lord that see everything perfectly. Look upon Your servant unwaveringly holding forth Your Word, the Plumb Line, as Your house is being built according to design by the power of Your Spirit.*

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these

commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” [Mt.5:17-19]. *Your Word, O Lord, abides throughout the generations. It shall never lose its significance and relevance. You preserve Your Word, even to the minutest details, the very letters of its words. We keep Your Word, O Lord, in its entirety. Every commandment pertains, every statute is relevant. We keep them as fulfilled in You, Lord Jesus. What was true in the Old Covenant, externally and physically, is yet true in You in the New Covenant, internally and spiritually. Thus Your Word abides, never loses its significance, and shall not pass away. Help us, O Lord, to not annul what You have said in Your Word. May we never teach men to do so.*

“Have you not read what David did...or have you not read in the Law, that ...” [Mt.12:3-5]. *The OT narrative, rightly understood, contains universal spiritual principles applicable to correct misguided religious regulations. Lord, help me to utilize Your Word as did the Lord Jesus.*

“...Have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham...’” [Mt.22:31,32]. *God speaks through what is written in His Word. That Word continues to speak to succeeding generations. Jesus expects us to read, understand, and apply His Word in this manner. He rebukes those who do not, who view His Word as passe history for previous generations. So relevant and accurate is His Word, that on the strength of the tense of one verb in this verse [I am], He scattered the nonsense of longstanding tradition.*

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away” [Mt.24:35]. *They shall not pass away, O Lord, for Your Word is forever settled in heaven.*

“You do not have His Word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him who He sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My Words?” [Jn.5:37-47]. *The purpose of the Scriptures is to reveal the Lord Jesus and lead our hearts to Him. Resting in “orthodoxy” of whatever variety will not save and can never impart life. The Scriptures testify of Christ, and what a glorious testimony it is. O Lord, open my eyes through Your most excellent Word to see Jesus on every page.*

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the Words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life” [Jn.6:63]. *These are no mere words preserved with pen. They are living. They are imbued with the Spirit. They are efficacious to produce life in recipient hearts.*

“If you abide in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” [Jn.8:31,32]. *Abiding in the truth of Jesus’ Word sets free from the bondage of sin and man-made tradition. Disciples learn from His Word and abide in it.*

“...and the Scripture cannot be broken” [Jn.10:35]. *The force of even one passage, however obscure, must be taken into account and given heed to. Every verse must be incorporated into an overall scheme of understanding and may necessitate modifying one’s conclusion on a matter. Not even one verse shall lose its power and be relegated to a realm of irrelevancy as rendering it*

*as not binding. Every verse of the Scriptures is pertinent and authoritative as fulfilled in Jesus.*

“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the Word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” [Jn.12:48]. *Obedience to the Word of Jesus will be the final determiner in the judgment. May we heed Jesus’ commands in His Word.*

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth” [Jn.17:17]. *The truth of the Word of God is the sanctifying influence within the soul.*

“..They received the Word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” [Acts 17:11]. *The truth of what is proclaimed about the Word of God is to be diligently verified from the Scriptures themselves. The Scriptures are their own context, and the safest commentary upon itself.*

“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ” [Rom.10:17]. *Faith has as its object truth regarding Jesus in accordance with His Word. Faith is defined as believing the promises and obeying the commands of the Word of God.*

“If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment. But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized” [I Cor.14:37,38]. *What is written in the Word of God is the Lord’s commandment, to be received and adhered to by “all who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” [I Cor.1:2].*

“Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...” [Col.3:16]. *The Word of God is to fill our hearts richly so as to have wisdom to help and encourage the brethren. Man’s ideas will not suffice, but will rather be detrimental.*

“For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe” [I Thess.2:13]. *It is the Word of God that performs its work of salvation and transformation within the hearts of willing recipients.*

“...the sacred writings are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” [2 Tim.3:15-17]. *The Scriptures originated with God. They are thus inspired and sufficient to transform lives unto godliness and usefulness. They are sacred writings, not to be trifled with, modified, or relegated to common categories.*

“For the Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and a discernor/judge/critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart” [Heb.4:12]. *The Word of God is living, and piercing to the deepest recesses of the heart, it evaluates, adjusts, and corrects the soul and spirit of a man with its life-giving transforming power.*

“For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God...the Word of the Lord endures forever” [I Pet.1:23,25]. *Living truth forever enduring is the Word of God that imparts a living seed within the hearts of willing recipients.*

“Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the Word so that by it you may grow thereby” [I Pet.2:2]. *It is the living Scriptures that nourish and sustain the soul, producing needed and progressive development unto maturity. The Word alone is capable of this work.*

“We have an even surer Word of prophecy, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises. In your hearts know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” [2 Pet.1:19-21]. *How marvelous is this majestic prophetic Word, the Scriptures. No human invention, no man-made myths, no clever theology is incorporated therein! No, rather truth inscribed from the standpoint of eternity is its content, the mind of the Holy Spirit Himself preserved for every generation. Divine superintending of men of God produced a living record, a durable compilation of the mind of God that is certain and sure, encapsulating His eternal purpose for man. There is no other Word from God; all else is what the Scriptures are not: human interpretation.*

“Write, “Blessed are those who are invited the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are true Words of God.” then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that, I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; Worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”” [Rev.19:9,10]. *Yes, these are true Words of God, and the substance of the entire Word of God is testimony to Jesus. This is the spirit of true prophecy.*

“I testify to everyone who hears the Words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book, and if anyone takes away from the Words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree/book of life and from the holy city, which are written in this Book. He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming quickly’” [Rev.22:18-20]. *Yes, Lord Jesus, come quickly for those who are broken and contrite of spirit and who tremble at Your Word. Here is the final capstone, the summation of the spirit of prophecy, the very testimony of Jesus. More than 400 threads pulled from the totality of the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation are interwoven into the fabric of this finale. Those who tamper with it do so at the peril of their own souls. Cast your presumptuous and paltry additions to the moles and bats! Fear to delete one jot or tittle from this Word forever settled in heaven! For He of whom it testifies, affirms its validity and will mete out retribution as surely as He is King of kings and Lord of lords. The King has spoken; bow the knee and kiss His feet.*

*The preceding reflections and prayers noted in italics are those of Steve Phillips, August, 2016*