

## The Heart of the Matter

Psalm 119: 10-12

We have read from a familiar passage of Scripture this evening. Verse 11 in particular is a verse that we learned at an early age reciting the pledge to the Bible at VBS. I am thankful to have been blessed with a heritage that placed an emphasis on Scripture. I remember as a child being challenged each week to read the Bible. We kept a chart that marked our progress from week to week, recording the number of chapters we had read that week.

I fear that many who are coming along in this present generation will not be challenged or committed to reading and studying the Word of God. Many in our day have no desire for the church, and if they do come, many only come for the worship service at 11:00. They fail to see the importance of systematic study of God's Word.

I want to consider the great truths that are revealed in these verses pertaining to the Word of God. It is that precious Word that brings conviction to our hearts and change to our lives. We need those today whose hearts are filled with the Word. Thinking in light of the Word and its place in our hearts, I want to preach on: [The Heart of the Matter](#).

**I. The Submission of the Heart** (10) – [With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments](#). There are a couple of aspects regarding the submission of the heart that we need to consider.

**A. The Heart is Consumed** – The psalmist did not speak of a half-hearted effort. He was not seeking to follow the Lord only half-way. He was determined to follow the Lord and seek after Him with his whole heart. This reveals that his entire being was consumed with a desire for the Lord and His Word. The phrase [whole heart](#) has the idea of "*the inner man, that is mind, will, heart, and understanding.*" In essence, all that we are.

- This presents a familiar but also a very challenging thought. We all know that we are to seek the Lord with all of our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength. If He isn't Lord of all of our lives, then He isn't Lord at all in our lives. We know that. We would all agree with that. But, do we live our lives according to that profound truth? Are we really sold out to the Lord? Are His Word and His way a priority in our lives?

- I wonder what would happen around Fellowship if just a couple of us decided to seek the Lord with our whole heart, with literally all our being. I assure you that we would see a change for the better.

**B. The Heart is Committed** – **With my whole heart have I sought thee.** Here is yet another familiar challenge with a profound thought. The psalmist actually desired the Lord. He actually wanted to fellowship with Him. He genuinely desired to know and follow the ways of God. He was committed to gaining the wisdom of God and applying it to his life.

- May I ask a personal question? How long has it been since you really desired the Lord? How long has it been since you sought Him with your whole heart? How long has it been since you were determined to experience worship and enjoy intimacy with Christ? That is what the psalmist is referring to here. This involves a commitment to seek the Lord and experience Him that will not be hindered or deterred.

**C. The Heart is Concerned** (10b) – **O let me not wander from thy commandments.** Not only did the psalmist have a genuine desire for the Lord, he also had a concern for his life being pleasing unto God. He sought the Lord that his life would remain close and his walk would not be led astray. To **wander** here speaks of “*going astray, to err; to commit sin in ignorance.*” He was actually pleading with God to guide his life and prevent him from wandering from His commandments.

- Here again is yet another profound truth. This passage has really spoken to my heart. We need that same concern for our lives and the lives of those around us. Many have thrown caution to the wind and have decided to live life as they please. They never stop to pray and seek God’s wisdom. There is little or no concern as to whether their lives are pleasing to the Lord. Most walk this road of life seeking pleasure and prosperity. Few have a desire for the ways of God or a concern that their lives would please Him.

## **I. The Submission of the Heart** (10)

**II. The Security of the Heart** (11) – **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.** The Word of God has brought peace and security to many throughout the ages. It is powerful and living. I rejoice that we have been blessed to possess a copy of His precious Word! Notice what is involved in the security of the heart.

**A. The Abundance** – **Thy Word.** The psalmist had something far more precious than the treasures of this life. He had been given the Word of God. He was aware that God was the divine Author. He had literally breathed His words so that humanity might know Him.

- Have you considered lately the treasure that we have in this blessed Book? We have a copy of the Word of God. These aren’t my words; they aren’t man’s words. This is God’s Word! We have the very heart and mind of God revealed to man. He has revealed Himself to us so that we might know Him. He has given His Word so that we might receive the gospel and

come to salvation through Christ our Lord. Of all that you possess nothing is greater than the Word of God.

**B. The Acquaintance** – *Thy word have I hid in mine heart.* God's Word was not unfamiliar to him. He had studied it; he had meditated upon it. He had hidden it within his heart and it had changed his life. It had penetrated a heart of stone and brought direction to a wayward life. God's Word was so precious and life changing that he placed in the most precious place he had, within his heart.

- There is an interesting aspect that we need to consider when thinking about hiding the Word within our hearts. Many interpret this to focus upon memorization of Scripture, and there would certainly be application for that, but it has to be more than mere memorization. There are a lot of folks who can quote Scripture. There are lost people who know the Bible better than many who attend church on a regular basis.
- Hiding God's Word in our hearts involves more than a mere knowledge of Scripture. It moves it from the head to the heart. This is speaking of allowing the Word to transform our lives. It is learning the Word and then submitting to it! If you are to hide God's Word in your heart, you must be obedient to it.

**C. The Assurance (11b)** – *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* This goes hand in hand with his concern in the previous verse. He knew as long as God's Word was truly hidden in his heart, he would not sin against God. As long as God's Word was leading him, his path would always be straight.

- Now, this does not imply that one can reach a point where they live above sin. This reveals a precious truth unto us. When we hide God's Word in our hearts, it helps prevent sin in our lives. When our passion and our focus is the Word of God, we will not seek to please the flesh. If we are busy hiding God's Word in our hearts, we will be much less likely to commit willful sin.
- Are you struggling with giving in to temptation and sin? Does it seem that you have wandered from the path God has for your life? If so, are you hiding His Word in your heart? Are you allowing His Word to dictate and direct your path? Without obedience to the Word, sin will develop.

### **I. The Submission of the Heart (10)**

### **II. The Security of the Heart (11)**

**III. The Substance of the Heart (12)** – *Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.* This verse reveals the contents of the psalmist's heart. Notice what his heart possessed.

**A. Praise (12a)** – **Blessed art thou, O LORD.** As he pondered the Lord and His precious Word, praise welled up in his heart. He knew that God had blessed him abundantly and he couldn't help but praise Him.

- As I consider all that the Lord has done for me, I can't help but praise Him either. Just take a moment to consider all that He has done for us. He has provided a means for our salvation. He has given us His blessed Word. He has gone away to prepare a place where all the redeemed will spend eternity in His presence. How could we not praise Him?

**B. Prayer (12)** – **Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.** The psalmist's life had been consumed with a love and concern for the Word. He had hidden God's Word in His heart. He praised the Lord for all the blessings he had received. He closes with a prayer unto the Lord to teach him His ways.

- The psalmist wanted to know more of God. He wanted to learn more of Him. All that he had experienced in the past was beyond comprehension and he wanted to experience God in new and different ways.

- That ought to be our prayer as well. We ought to seek God to teach us more of Him. I never want to reach the place that I feel satisfied and content with my relationship with Christ. I want to know more of Him each day. I want to walk in His paths and discover His glory! O Lord, teach us thy statutes!

These familiar verses have challenged my heart this evening. I want to be drawn closer to the Lord. I want to spend more time in His precious Word, allowing it to mold and transform my life. I want to offer praise unto the majestic and glorious God we serve.

May we search our hearts and be honest with the Lord today. Are we where He would have us be? Are there areas in our lives that we need to bring before Him? If so, why not be obedient to His call and come?