

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.