

# SOUL FOOD

DECEMBER 8, 2016

## PSALM 119:1-16 DELIGHTING IN GOD'S WAYS

One of the common words used to describe how God's people should view His Word is DELIGHT. While we are called to obedience we are not called to a blind obedience. God desires for us to obey Him and walk with Him out of love, honor, and delight. In the light of this reality it was a common practice among school children in ancient Israel to put honey on the slates on which they used to write. The children would then lick the honey off of the slate in order to associate sweetness and delight with learning. The ways of God are a source of blessing and goodness from God. To live other than this is to pursue the path of death.

Those who keep God's testimonies are blessed. Those who do so are to do it with ALL their hearts. Again, this teaches us that God desires truth from our inmost being. God wants our hearts to be engaged in the pursuit of obedience. Love is the pathway of walking with God. Love is the summary of all of God's law. Truly, a part of seeking to discern God's will in all matters is to ask ourselves, "what does love say?"

Walking with God in this way is a vital key to worship. The Psalmist says, "I will praise you with an upright heart when I learn your righteous rules." Truth, worship, and love are vitally connected. To love God and neighbor is the language of worship and a heart that is right with God. This is the heart that delights in God. We also learn that purity is a fruit of delighting in God. As a young man this was one of the first Bible verses that I memorized: **"How can young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your word." "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."** Let's face it. We need all of the help and power we can get in order to do battle against sin and temptation. God's Word is referred to as a sword. It does its work in the hearts and lives of people. Scripture also refers to God's Word as a hammer. God's Word builds and strengthens our faith, which is a shield that helps to protect us from the "fiery darts" of the evil one. Deeper love for God leads us to desire His will more concertedly.

As a child, Christmas and everything that goes with it held a very special place in my heart. Christmas Eve seemed to last forever as I awaited the morning. There was great anticipation and sheer delight as I opened the presents. This is akin to what the Psalmist is talking about here when it comes to how we are to delight in the very Word of God. God's Word is truly more precious than gold. Approach His Word accordingly.