

Psalms Chapter 19 Verses 8-14 Joy In Keeping God's Commandments

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

Ps 19:8 "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Right means *to be straight, to make right, pleasant, or prosperous*. Certainly, when we are born again, we come to understand that everything that God has commanded his people to do is for their good and to his glory. They therefore are "**rejoicing the heart**." In other words: it makes the child of God happy to obey the commandments of God as we see in the New Testament:

- **Joh 13:17 "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."** Jesus spake these words to his disciples after the Lord's Supper was instituted and he had washed their feet. This speaks to us of the need to profess discipleship to Jesus when we are born again, so that we may be happy to partake of the Lord's Supper.

"the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." As God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, are all completely pure and without sin, so their words are pure. These pure words of God give enlightenment to the child of God, and the New Testament Church.

9 "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."

How is fear of the Lord clean? When we are born again and indwelt with the Holy Spirit, we are clean eternally, because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross. In the new birth, we are given eternal life, and eternal life is forever.

We find many verses about "**The fear of the LORD**" in scripture, such as:

- **Job 28:28 "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."** If we fear the Lord, we will willingly obey his voice of commandment, and we shall abhor evil.
- **Pr 1:7 ¶ "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."** We are given the distinction between those who fear the Lord and those who are fools, which is the same distinction between those who are children of God and those who are not.

"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." Can you imagine anything that is sweeter than walking in the fear of the LORD, and being comforted by the Holy Ghost, seeing the revelation of our King and Saviour Jesus Christ from the bible, and seeing the New Testament church growing? What a wonderful blessing of God to his people.

This verse demonstrates what we read in **Mt 6:19-21; 19 ¶ "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."** It is a warning to us to not turn from wholly serving God to idolatry.

11 "Moreover, by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

What is by them? The words from verses 8-10: **8 "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."** If we keep the statutes of God, there is great reward to be had here in time. We get to enjoy the blessing of God here and now.

12 "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults."

"Who can understand his errors?" I think we can get the perspective of this question from **Le 4:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them:** Sometimes we commit sins that we do not recognize to be sins, except they are brought to our attention.

David prays to God to cleanse him from secret faults. Secret faults are sins, which we know we have committed, but we are trying to hide them, as David did in his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah. It is a reminder to us that though we may hide our sins from people, nothing we do is hid from God.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."

What are presumptuous sins? Presumptuous means arrogant or proud. These are sins we knowingly commit, and we are glad we did them. We get a glimpse of the meaning from **Ex 21:14** *"But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die."* King David having Uriah killed to hide his sin of committing adultery with Uriah's wife is an example of presumptuous sin. However, God in his mercy did not slay David, and we are not slain because of the mercy of God given us through the finished work of Jesus.

"let them not have dominion over me:" King David is praying to God to not let presumptuous sins become habitual in his life. Neither should they be in ours.

What is the great transgression? Transgression means rebellion. Thus, we understand that the great transgression would be to rebel against God and his commandments.

14 "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

In closing, David prays something that should always be present in our hearts and minds as children of God. Why? Because, if the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, are acceptable to God, we are walking in the righteousness of Christ Jesus. We are fulfilling the two great commandments **Mt 22:37** *"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* And we are fulfilling the New Commandment given by Jesus **Joh 13:34** *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."*

What a great example our Saviour set of completely following the statutes of the Lord. If we walk in the pathway that Jesus set before us then it shall be with us as David said in **Ps 19:8** *"The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."* We also see that Jesus taught this very same thing in **Joh 13:17; 16** *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."* May we ever be found with hearts rejoicing in the joy of God's salvation in our lives, Amen!