



but have not love, I am NOTHING” (1 Cor. 13:2 emphasis mine).

if we do not *love* Him and, as a corollary, His Word, that we have no legitimate motivation for following it? Consider Paul’s words on this point: **“And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and ALL KNOWLEDGE, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,**

Brethren, let us resolve to immerse ourselves in the Word of God, to saturate our minds with God’s teaching, and do so because we love Him and want to remain in His love—away from sin. Let us resolve to be “people of the book” and, like the assembly before Ezra, ask for “the book of the law” when we gather and delight in its reading (cf. Neh. 8:1). Let us, like Ezra, **“set our hearts to study the Law of the Lord, and to practice it and to teach His statutes and ordinances...”** (Ezra 7:10).



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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

12.45

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

November 7
2010

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia



“How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts”

By Jason Garcia

There’s no doubt that we live in a society where many sins are glamourized: drunkenness, sexual promiscuity, materialism, gossip etc. are touted as the “norm”, and are encouraged in young people who “want to have a good time.” The world would have us think that self-indulgence and surrender to all our desires leads to a healthy, happy life, and anyone who doesn’t indulge with them is “perverse” or “abnormal.” However, if we examine the lives of those who have given in to this propaganda, we find people that are impotent, diseased, full of jealousies, lies, and actually anything but happy and healthy. I once took part in a discussion where a young man asked, “What can I do to keep a clear conscience?” Given the degradation of society’s moral values, and the filth with which the enemy constantly surrounds our children, we can understand the struggle they face, for we face it ourselves. The psalmist once asked the same question as the young man, so let us search for God’s answer in His Word.

The Psalmist phrased his question this way: “**How can a young man keep his way pure?**” and immediately follows with “**by keeping it according to YOUR WORD.**” (Psalm 119:9 emphasis mine). He then implores, “**With all my heart I have sought You; DO NOT LET ME WANDER from Your commandments.**” And finishes the thought by saying, “**Your**



Olsen Park church of Christ

WORD I have treasured in my heart, that I MAY NOT SIN against You.” (Psalm 119:10-11 emphasis mine). We should take note of, not only the psalmist’s answer, but also his *attitude* towards God’s Word. God has made it abundantly clear to us that His Word is powerful, all sufficient, and, if it is to be effective in us, integral to our lives. He testifies that His Word is living and active, able to give us eternal life, and contains the answer to all questions we have about how to live our lives (cf. Heb. 4:12; John 6:63, 68; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Furthermore, we are commanded to grow in knowledge (cf. 2 Pet. 1:5; 3:18; Heb. 5:11-13); how can we expect to do this if we do not read His Word often? Take special note of the passage in Hebrews in which the illustration of the untaught are likened to babies who need milk (i.e. elementary principles of the faith). The author describes them as “**UNACCUSTOMED to the word of righteousness.**” The original language carried with it connotations of “ignorance, inexperience, incompetency” (James Strong), so let us be diligent to accustom, educate, and familiarize ourselves with God’s Word as He has commanded. Isn’t it interesting that, during the times of the kings, God *required* them to write their own copy of the law? Consider that the King was to “**write for himself a copy of [the] law in a book**”, it was to “**be with him**”, and he was to “**read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God**” so that he would “**be careful to observe all the words of this law**” and “**his heart may not be lifted above**

his brethren” (Deut. 17:18-20). In our time, and for those in Christ, we are a “*royal priesthood*” according to Peter (cf. Pet. 2:9); should there be a similarity in our handling of the Word with the royals of old? I am not suggesting that God has commanded us to write our own personal copy of His Word in order to be pleasing to Him, but rather I am emphasizing the fact that God, throughout history, has *expected* His Word to be central in the lives of His people. However, it will be very difficult to accomplish this, if we do not have the right attitude.

The Psalms are replete with pages describing God’s Word with beautiful language, and not just the Word in general but, specifically, His *laws* and *statutes* (cf. Psalm 19:7-10) The wording of these verses, and the repetition of the same sentiment demonstrate a love for God’s teaching, and a sincere desire to come to a fuller knowledge of them. We too must share this attitude if we are to grow in our knowledge and in our relationship with God. The Scriptures are undeniably clear in their association of love for God with love for His Word, and we stand to gain the blessing of remaining in His love if we keep His commands. Consider Jesus’ words: “**If you love me you will keep my commands.**” And again, “**So that the world may know that I love the Father, I do**

EXACTLY as He commands Me.” And yet again, “**If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love**” (John 14:15, 31; 15:10 emphasis mine). Let us look again at the psalmist’s attitude, specifically what is demonstrated in the phrase “Your Word I have treasured in my heart...” We have established that the writer has the utmost love for the Word of God, but now let us notice the goal he has in mind. What does he say on the heels of that phrase?—“That I may not sin against You.” Herein lies the answer to the title of this article, and the psalmist’s question. Isn’t it baffling to think that we can have perfect knowledge of God’s Word, but