

Come Follow Me Podcast  
Elo Viz Production  
Week 35  
Psalms 102-150

Psalms 1, 19 and 119 all have a similar message or theme. And it is one that when people hear the topic it makes them cringe and run away or at least their mind starts racing to find a justification for all their natural appetites.

Psalm 119:97-104 reads:

**97** O how love I thy law! it *is* my meditation all the day.

**98** Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me.

**99** I have more **understanding** than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my **meditation**.

**100** I understand more than the **ancients**, because I keep thy precepts.

**101** I have **refrained** my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

**102** I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

**103** How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

**104** Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

This short sonata has a feeling of gratitude and praise to an almighty God for His Law. Think to yourself for a moment if you feel this way about the Commandments, the word of wisdom, the temple covenants, Or the church's moral code.

What I wish to discuss today is the importance of complete dedication to the Law of God in the life of a Christian. And since it begins with "O, how I love Thy law!" we get a sense that this Psalmist truly understands how important it is.

Because in today's society it has become this notion or idea widely accepted in and out of the church that it is Intrierly legitimate for the Chirstian to substitute God's law for the judgments of our own hearts. So, that in a sense, now that we have been baptized and been to the temple, we can pretty much decide how this thing goes. For example: Someone could say, I know I've been married for 25 years and we have built a life together and had children together, but I met this other woman and I just feel really at peace that it's ok for me to leave my family and be with this other woman. I've prayed about it and read my scriptures and I just feel really good that this is what God wants for me. And I know that God wants me to be happy and so this is a good thing that God wants me to do.

This is an example of someone forsaking the laws of God and following the judgments of their own hearts, because they are free to choose. And, they mis-understand the feeling of the spirit for their own wants and desires. Operating on the basis of love, and that God loves them and wants them to be happy therefore this thing is ok or justified in their own heart.

Jim Packer in his book on the puritans commenting on a earlier generation says: " The root cause of our moral flabbiness is that we have neglected God's law"

In Alistar Begg's Exposition on Psalms 119 he says he was asked what he thought caused men to drop to their knees more, Do you think it is moral failure or physical fear? He says without a question it is physical fear. He continues: " the atheist will cry out to God when he is 400 yards from shore and his oars have fallen out of his rowing boat. He will cry out to God that he doesn't believe in. But, the average person that has offended against God's law, who has broken the commandments, who is aware of the fact that they are a dreadful liar, or horribly covetous, seldom if any will fall to their knees and ask for God's forgiveness. Why? Because we have become morally flabby. We have created a context in which we are able to excuse just about anything and everything we chose to do, and to do it under the rubric that somehow or another this is our benefit in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Link:<https://readpsalm119.com/2018/08/09/notes-from-an-exposition-of-psalm-119-part-one-alistair-begg/>

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VProBjgybM>

Now, how do we embrace this reliance on God's law, when at the same time pursuing freedom which we seek and which God wants us to have? The Psalmist answers this for us in 119: 44-48:

“44 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

45 And I will walk at **liberty**: for I seek thy precepts.

46 I will speak of thy testimonies also before **kings**, and will not be **ashamed**.

47 And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.

48 My **hands** also will I **lift up** unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.”

And this familiar verse:

D&C 130:20-21:

20 There is a **law**, irrevocably decreed in **heaven** before the foundations of this world, upon which all **blessings** are predicated—

21 And when we obtain any **blessing** from God, it is by **obedience** to that law upon which it is predicated.

The complexity then, is to understand that the more we obey God's law, God's voice, His will; the more free we become. Not to do our own will but the will of Him who sent us here. It is through God's law that we find true freedom, but explaining that to a young person so they understand and want to embrace that path is nearly impossible. It must be experienced. The person that dedicates their life to obeying and honoring all of God's words and proptings is the only person that truly understands the freedoms that attends that life.

Even today as I am recording this podcast, this is the day that my son is getting set apart as a full time missionary. Yesterday he wanted to watch "The Lord of the Rings" as his one last movie to watch before he has to give up all movies for 2 years. And I asked him; on your last night before you become a missionary, wouldn't it be more beneficial to do something that will help you become a better missionary, than to indulge in one last "worldly pleasure" before you

give it all up? He doesn't yet understand the freedom, or happiness that comes with total and complete dedication to God's will. But, before the next two years are up, I believe he will.

Have you ever been to a country that does not have traffic laws? If you haven't, imagine this: No traffic signs, or signals. No speed limits. Just a free-for-all for everyone to do as they pleased. Could you imagine the traffic jams, the chaos that would ensue. This is what happens when laws become more like suggestions. This is what happens in our lives when we view God's or even man's laws as merely suggestions. Our lives become chaotic or uneasy.

Let's take a little deep dive here and look at why and how this happens. The most simple to understand is the word of wisdom. Listen to the verse that proceeds the unfolding of these commandments. D&C 89:4:

“4 Behold, verily, thus saith the Lord unto you: In consequence of **evils** and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of **conspiring** men in the last days, I have **warned** you, and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation”

There is the purpose right there. Explained very clearly that the reason God asks us to keep this law is because there are conspiring men under the influence of the adversary that are trying to ensnare and trape you, trying to keep you from the peace and comfort of God's presents; therefore He is laying out a protection or shield that we must use in order to avoid their attacks.

But, we justify our own will by saying: well: He didn't mean this drink or that substance. Even though we know that they are still highly addictive. I find it ironic that in verse 7 it says clear as day that “strong drinks are not for the belly” literally, word for word. “Strong drinks are not for the belly”, Yet how many latter day saints believe that energy drinks or chemically produced beverages are just fine to consume as long as they don't contain alcohol? The adversary is so cunning that he will lure us into an addiction that we don't even realize we have or that we are walking into.

The number one reason we have laws and commandments are to keep us safe, to protect us from the adversary's tactics. At least that is the beginning, the bottom of the latter. We will find that as we continue up the rungs of that latter the views are much better from the top. We all want “ALL” that God will bless us with, but are we willing to do what it takes to receive those blessings. Section 130 that we read earlier gives us a glimpse of the higher law. Every blessing is predicated or attached to a law. And When we receive any blessing...ANY blessing it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.

So...what does that mean? Simply put; If you need a certain blessing, find out which law that blessing is attached to and obey that law with exactness. Then as the law of tithing states.

Malachi 3:10-11

“10 Bring ye all the **tithes** into the storehouse, that there may be **meat** in mine house, and **prove** me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not **open** you the **windows of heaven**, and pour you out a **blessing**, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*”

**11** And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.”

What a blessing, and what a simple law. Give one tenth back to God of all that he has given you and He will open the windows of heaven that there shall not be room enough to receive it... And he will rebuke the devourer...and...and...and.

Doesn't that seem a lot off balance? What I mean by that is; Doesn't that seem like a lot of blessing that come from a simple law of giving back to God a small portion of what he gives to us?

I testify that all of God's laws are off balance in our favor. We will always receive more blessings than we could ever imagine when we live the laws that God has given and when we faithfully obey His promptings. This is what Jesus proclaimed during his earthly ministry and it is what He proclaims now. For sake the traps and snares of the world and “Come, Follow Me”

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.