

Title: “Why Does This Guy Love Rules?”

Date: 2/23/20

Series: Psalms

Text: Psalm 119:17-24

Blurb: “Only a crazy man loves rules. Or does he know something we don’t?”

Outline

Is this guy crazy?

119:20 My soul is consumed with longing for your **rules** at all times.

119:52 When I think of your **rules** from of old, I take comfort, O LORD.

Frequent terms in Psalm 119: law, testimonies, precepts, rules, statutes, commandments, rules, words

- These all come from God, and most of them tell us what to do

Let’s read 119:17-24

- “So basically the psalmist is writing about his incredible love for anything God says...” – William Ross, Old Testament Scholar

The psalmist knows that God’s Word – even His rules – are just *divine!*

[1] Divinely Personal

Many of the rules we have in life are *impersonal*. But the psalmist knows that isn’t the case with God’s rules.

- See 119:57 and 119:11 for the frequent connection the psalmist makes with the personal God who is ‘behind’ the rules.
- He loves God’s words because he loves *God*.

[2] Divinely practical

I don’t mean something easy and superficial. A life “hack.” These are deeper and harder laws.

Are you stumbling in the darkness in life? Consider 119:105 and 119:130.

One example in of light found in God’s rules:

- 119:36 Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!
- “Do not steal,” as well as the 1st and 2nd Greatest Commandments convey this powerfully

But doesn’t the law bring death according to Paul?

- “The psalmist is not saying that the law grants life to those who are dead in their sin... the psalmist reflects on the role of the commands in those who already know God. The law can “revive” their affection for God and promote a desire to do his will when the Spirit uses the written word to convict and illumine those who already have new life.” – Tom Schreiner, New Testament scholar

- The law does not save! See salvation, mercy, and repentance in 119:41, 77, 81, 123, 156, 166, 174, 176

Taste... and see!

103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

- As Jonathan Edwards famously observed, you can believe that honey is sweet intellectually, but you cannot sense its sweetness until you taste it

For further reflection and application:

1. Read all of Psalm 119. Note the verses that seem the most 'foreign' to your way of thinking and living. Pray about it: "Lord, is there something here I need to understand better? Is there something I need to do?"
2. Can you come up with examples from God's rules that have been incredibly important in your life? Is there one that steered you away from shipwrecking your life? Or one in particular you wish you would have heeded?
3. Taking Psalm 119 to heart, what key change(s) do you need to make in your life?