

THE WONDER OF THE WORD (Part II)

Psalm 119: 129-144

Introduction:

The young psalmist was in awe of the word of the Lord. He valued it above his highest treasure. When he unrolled the scroll to read it, there was a sense of wonder in his heart. The hearing and reading of the Word moved him to a fresh surrender of his life to the Lord in worship.

I remember an incident that happened on one of our visits to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. A Jewish family had come to the wall to celebrate a Bar Mitzvah. This marks the point in life where a Jewish boy becomes a son of the law. They had brought with them a copy of the sacred scroll. O there was such a commotion about the scroll. The excitement of the group was so obvious—they had with them the law of the Lord. Now the young son would become a son of the law, he would begin to be responsible for obeying the words of the law.

You find this kind of excitement about the word among believers in those oppressive societies that make the ownership of a Bible illegal. You will find believers listening to the words of the forbidden book with a sense of awe, and valuing the book as life itself. In our land of cheap Bibles we have lost some of that wonder.

Review with me the affirmations of the psalmist concerning the nature of the Holy Scriptures, maybe we can recover some of the wonder of the word.

I. THE WONDER OF ITS NATURE.

“Your testimonies are wonderful.”

Wonderful is a very special word. It means miraculous, paradoxical, coming from God, not man.¹

“Wonderful” means that it from another world, it has a supernatural quality to it. It is a miracle in itself.

II. THE WONDER OF ITS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

“Righteous are You, O Lord, and upright are your judgments.”

“Your testimonies, which you have commanded, are righteous and very faithful.”

“The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting.”

1. The word reflects the righteous character of the God who gave it.
2. The word reflects the faithfulness of the God who gave it.
3. The word reflects the unchanging nature of the God who gave it.

III. THE WONDER OF ITS PURITY.

“Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it.”

1. It has the purity of something that has been through the fire of testing.
2. It has such purity that it can be obeyed without fear.

IV. THE WONDER OF ITS TRUTHFULNESS.

“And your law is truth.”

This agrees with the affirmation of the Lord Jesus in His great prayer, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Every human book should have a disclaimer on it: “Caution! Written by a fallen man so it is subject to error!” Only this word can bear the inscription—“Free from error, full of truth, always trustworthy.”

The young psalmist affirms the same reality a second time, “And all thy commandments are truth.” (v. 151)