

*The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward (Psalm 19:9-11).*

The heart that is right rejoices in right. It prefers a judgment that is just to one that is advantageous though unjust. It cannot rejoice in iniquity and wrongdoing even when it gains by such. Therefore the godly man counts the judgments of the Lord “sweeter than honey.”

There is an additional reason for cherishing the commandments, the decreed judgments, the records of the Lord’s executed justice. We are told that the Lord’s servant is warned by them; and he has discovered that those who keep them find great rewards.

It is significant that we are told that only the Lord’s servant is warned, and only the Lord’s servant experiences these rewards. This is altogether reasonable. Only the subjects of a kingdom are concerned with the laws, threats and promises of that kingdom. Why should Americans fear what the Soviet Union threatens to do to its citizens for disobeying the laws of the State? We are not subject to their authority. Or what cause for rejoicing should we have in a reward promised Frenchmen for obeying a particular French ordinance? If we should obey it meticulously in the U. S., there would be no reward forthcoming from the French government.

Even so, those who do not serve the Lord cannot identify with the care and concern with which obedient Christians view God’s holy law. They take absolutely no warning from them. The fact that they have broken the Commandments all their lives cause them no concern whatsoever and they continue on their lawless way without any fear of consequences. Nor do godless people understand the delight Christians display in obeying God’s commandments. To the former it seems a grievous bondage. To the latter it is an unspeakable delight filled with a thousand rich rewards.

There is a breakdown in the foregoing analogy however. God has made Christ every man’s Lord. He has crowned Him King of kings and Lord of lords. And although men do not own Him as Lord, yet He is. And though men are not warned by His commandments, they ought to be. And though men fear no consequences for their sins, they will surely come. We must all stand before Him in judgment. Let us heed His judgments now.

-C.M.