

*Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through Your precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way (Psalm 119: 97-104)*

Here we have the great eulogy of the Word of God, It's crowning praise and benediction. It is described in many of the various shades of its character throughout the psalm as, law, precepts, commandments, judgments, testimonies, statutes, ordinances. We further qualify it by such words as gospel, epistles, poetry, covenants, promises, and history. The whole is often referred to as the Scriptures, or the Bible. But it is of great importance that in all this we do not lose sight of the most salient and powerful fact of all. It is the Word of God! It has been greatly depreciated by men who never consider it anything but a "holy book", the Bible. It is vulnerable to more contempt when it is depreciated to nothing more than a collection of writings, called by its votaries as "scripture". We usually mean no harm by these names, but they subtly eat away at the stark reality inescapably borne by the phrase "The Word of God"! We ought never take the book in our hands, open it, or listen to it read or quoted, without thinking, "This is the Word of Almighty God, the Ancient of Ages, the Author, Creator, Governor and Sustainer of all things. I must receive these words, every one of them, with reverence, awe and unqualified acceptance".

The poet fully appreciates all this when he says, "*You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies, (give me) more understanding than all my teacher, than the ancients*". It is not "the Bible" or a set of principles, values and sayings that have accomplished this. It is a Person. It is a cold and sterile thing when our lives are ordered by naught but persuasions or convictions we have gleaned from writings, formulas, axioms, and sayings that men have learned and put together through centuries of experience. They do not have to force to command devotion necessary to set and keep our course and our way for life. If men have learned these things one by one over time, may we not learn something new, different and superior? And if that be the case, how can we rest in quiet and sure repose, confident that here is ultimate truth and reality that can never be shaken or supplanted?

So we may say with the psalmist, "*I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me*". That is what the prophet envisioned in the words "*All your children shall be taught of the Lord, And great shall be the peace of Your children*" (Isaiah 54:13). Christians are not made so by catechisms or scripture memorization. We do not grow in grace, exhibit a holy and godly life by carrying a Bible around. We who savingly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ have been visited by the Almighty. God may employ preachers, He will use words of scripture, good gospel publications, and

set the good works of saints before our eyes, but we are brought to know Him by His personal coming to us and speaking His Word to our hearts. Let us seek HIM. He will be found of those who do. - C. M.