

LIVING WATER

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A GOD WHO CARES ENOUGH

By Todd Thielbar

Psalm 19:7-11

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

These verses are some of my favorites. The Psalmist describes for us a God who has shown us how much he cares about us. We have seen this throughout His word.

John 3:16 - 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Rom 5:8 - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:16 - 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

In considering how much God loves us and how He has shown us His love, I think it is important to consider how we view the commandments of God. Remember, the language of Psalm 19. God giving us His word was motivated by love. In Psalm 19, these are the result of God's word being heard and applied:

- Converting the soul
- Making wise the simple
- Rejoicing the heart
- Enlightening the eyes

In verse 11, David tells us that these laws, testimonies, statutes and commandments are meant to warn us and if we keep them, there is a great reward. It is obvious that God loves us and cares enough about us that He has given us His word and shown His love in many ways.

So here is my question. Why then do we sometimes look at the commandments of God as unpleasant restrictions that we have to put up with? Why do we sometimes consider His commandments as burdensome? **1 John 5:3 says "3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."** And even with that knowledge from God's word, we still at times see the commandments as burdensome.

I am sure there are many answers and reasons to this question. I want to consider that one reason we have trouble in seeing the goodness in God's commandments comes from our limited perspective. The only attraction that sin has is that it offers pleasure in the short term. We need to see, as God does, the long range consequences of our actions. We need to realize the wisdom of His way. We need to place our confidence in His perspective.

Proverbs 3:5-6

**5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall [b]direct your paths.**

God never commands anything that is not for our good. He knows us inside out and He love us more than we can imagine. He wants the very best for us. Why does He ask us to say no to one thing or to say yes to something else? It is only because He wants us to have the joy He has. He wants to help us avoid anything that would interfere with our relationship with Him and ultimately interfere with us having the blessing of heaven.

Let me take it one step further and ask this question. How could we ever doubt the intentions or perspective of a God who would give the life of His Son as an atonement for our sins?

Romans 8:32 - 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Satan is the one who lies to us when he says he wants what is good for us. What has Satan ever done or shown in his actions that would or could convince us that he loves and cares for us?

God has given conclusive proof that He loves us. Beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Even when our "own understanding" might cause us to doubt His path and His way, we can know that

following God's instructions will lead us to good things.

I have heard it described this way. In this life, we are walking across a minefield laid by Satan. Let's have the good sense to trust a God who cares enough to say "Step here" and "Don't step over there". In showing us the way, God knows what He is doing. He cares enough.

