

Psalm 119:129

With verse 129, we begin the seventeenth section of eight in Psalm 119.

The word esteem bears the meaning of being honored. The ideas or persons you hold in high regard often bring feelings of delight or approval. So much so that there is a desire to emulate them.

**Consider:** *What in a person would cause you to want to honor them?*

King Edward the Sixth, on the day of his coronation, had presented before him three swords, signifying that he was monarch of three kingdoms. The king said, there was one sword wanting; being asked what that was, he answered, "The Holy Bible, which is the sword of the Spirit, and is to be preferred before these ensigns of royalty." Thomas Watson, in "The Morning Exercises"

*Ps 119:129 Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul observes them.*

The Psalmist gives us an emphatic statement about God's testimony or witness – His word. Then he follows up with his active response to this truth. The things that really impact us cause a reaction or change.

wonderful <pele'> a miracle, marvelous thing, wonder (Strong's Concordance)

wonderful: extraordinarily good or great; syn. tremendous (WordWeb)

We can say we esteem someone or something but words alone are empty without action. For example, we can say it's important to serve without lifting a finger or without a willingness to sacrifice. You then need to ask yourself, do you truly believe this statement. We typically follow through with the things we value most. We make the time to do so. We set priorities that include those most admired things or people in our lives.

Thoughtfully consider the last 24 hours of your time. *What does it reflect?*

Wonderful - In regard of the deep mysteries, the most excellent directions, and the exceeding great and precious promises of God contained in them. John Wesley's Notes

*Because God's testimonies are wonderful, I will keep them. To what degree will you keep them? Consider: How often have you made exceptions to what you believe? Have you ever bent the rules just a little? Do we accept levels of commitment?*

soul <nepesh> all of me, the very breath of me

keep <natsar> guard, protect, observe

Notice the word soul means every fiber of your being. This is so much more than mere acknowledgement with words. *Do we try to live God's word? All the time? Even when it's exceedingly difficult to stand apart from the crowd? Even when it may mean the loss of a relationship? Or others think we're weird or over-the-top? Do we breathe God's word?*

Revisit the words to the familiar song 'Breathe' by Marie Barnett: This is the air I breathe. Your holy presence living in me. This is my daily bread. Your very word spoken to me. And I'm desperate for You. And I'm lost without You.

While [I] live will I praise the LORD. George Carpenter, the Bavarian martyr, being desired by some godly brethren, that when he was burning in the fire he would give them some sign of his constancy, answered, "Let this be a sure sign unto you of my faith and perseverance in the truth, that so long as I am able to hold open my mouth, or to whisper, I will never cease to praise God, and to profess his truth"; the which also he did, saith mine author; and so did many other martyrs besides. --John Trapp.

The things that are truly wonderful to us we desire to be a part of. Keeping God's word means we guard it. In order to guard something, you need to know what it is you are guarding. **Are you able to defend His word?** To defend the Word means we need to know and understand it. **What steps are you taking to know His truths?**

We guard those we love. My assumption is all of us here in this room love God. We can't harm is perfect character but our actions can thwart others from seeing Him clearly. **How do you explain God's patience in one breath then begin ranting about someone who wronged you in another? Is that keeping God's word? Consider what happens when our actions give a different message than our words?**

Keeping God's testimonies *must* involve action. **Your actions prove your words to be sincere.** They prove your love for God to be genuine. If you believe God's testimonies are wonderful, you will follow Him with all your might. With your very soul. With each breath.

**Jas 1:21-23 Therefore putting aside all filthiness and [all] that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;**

Those that see God's word to be admirable will prize it highly and preserve it carefully. Matthew Henry's Commentary

Tertullian said, "I adore the fullness of the Scripture." This is well, **but it is better still to stand in awe of their authority, and cheerfully yield obedience to their precepts.** Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

**Ps 119:2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all [their] heart.**

**Ps 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.**

God's word is miraculous!! It reveals His promises to us. It reveals His commands to us. It is perfect! In God's word we find comfort, we find strength, we find instruction. It is unchanging, it gives us understanding.

2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Ro 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

[The Psalmist] Expresses his admiration of God's testimonies, and his purpose to observe them. They are wonderful, contain astonishing discoveries of invisible things, of the mystery of God and of Christ, of the covenant of grace, of the way of godliness, and of the joys and miseries of the eternal world; therefore doth my soul keep them, locked up in my heart as the richest treasure, and with unreserved devotedness obeyed. Note, it is not commending God's word, but doing the work it enjoins, which can show our real esteem for it. Haweis

### What is the wonder of God's word?

God's word reveals His commands and promises. God's word allows His followers to know something about Him. God's word causes His children to be amazed at who He is. His truth continues to draw us into admiration for His person, His work, His righteousness and His plan.

God's word has the power to guide us through life on earth in a manner pleasing to Him, and into life eternal where we will be in His presence.

1Ki 2:3 "And keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn,

Jas 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

God's testimonies are free from error.

Ps 18:30 As for God, His way is blameless; the word of the LORD is tried; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

God's testimonies give instruction; they strengthen and comfort.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

Ro 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Isa 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

Ex 15:2 "The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will extol Him.

God's testimonies humble men; they transform men.

Ro 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Jas 1:21 Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

God's word gives us hope; it gives us direction.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Ps 73:24 With Thy counsel Thou wilt guide me, and afterward receive me to glory.

Ps 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

God's word is eternal.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(There are many more characteristics of God's Word that are wonderful – too many to mention in this study.)

Robert King of Sicily did so prize God's word, that, speaking to his friend Petrarcha, he said, "I protest, the Scriptures are dearer to me than my kingdom; and if I must be deprived of one of them, I had rather lose my diadem than the Scriptures." Thomas Watson, in "The Morning Exercises"

Use your "Apply It" bookmark and thoughtfully take time to consider how God's truths in Ps 119:129 might affect a cause for change or growth.