

GOD'S WONDERFUL, MARVELOUS WORD
Psa.119:129-136
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Psa.119 as a whole refers to God's Word in various ways, using a number of different words (such as: precepts, statutes, commandments, law, etc.) to refer to it.
2. In V.129 the psalmist said to the Lord, "Thy testimonies are wonderful"
 - a. He says they are "wonderful," i.e., they are "marvelous things."
 - b. Lit., "wonders; i.e., prodigies of moral excellence" (a marvelous thing; a wonderful example of)
3. He also says in V.129: "therefore doth my soul keep them."
 - a. Therefore, he obeys them, not only because they are God's precepts, statutes, commandments, law, and testimonies, but still more so because they are intrinsically (inherently, fundamentally) "holy, just, and good," (Rom.7:12), truly "marvelous things."
4. In our text (Psa.119:129-136) the Psalmist
 - a. Praises God's word as "wonderful," Vv.129,130.
 - b. Shows his affection for it, V.131.
 - c. Prays for grace to keep it, Vv.132-135.
 - d. Mourns for those who do not keep it, V.136.
5. There are several reasons why God's Word is wonderful, or why his "testimonies are wonderful," marvelous things, and reasons why we should keep them.
6. These we shall discuss in this study.

II. DISCUSSION

A. WONDERFUL BECAUSE OF ITS AUTHOR WHO IS WONDERFUL, Isa.28:29; Cf. Isa.9:6.

1. Both the O.T. and N.T. proclaim emphatically that God, the Father, is its Author.
 - a. Deut. 18:18,19: "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."

- b. Ac.3:19-26 – Here Jesus is identified by the Apostle Peter as being that Prophet of Deut.18.
 - c. In Jno.12:48-50 Jesus says, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
 - d. Heb.1:1,2 declares, “God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last day spoken unto us by his Son...”
 - e. 2Tim.3:16 says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (that is, “God-breathed”)”
 - f. 2Pet.1:21, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
 - g. 1Cor.2:10a, “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit”; V.13: “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth...”
2. Consider Heb.12:25, be like the Psalmist and keep them:
“See that ye refuse not him that sepeaketh: for if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven.”
 3. Since God is wonderful (Isa.28:29), naturally his Word is wonderful!

B. WONDERDUL BECAUSE OF ITS COMPLETENESS AND SUFFICIENCY.

1. No other law can justly claim such wonderful characteristics.
2. 2Tim.3:16-17.
 - a. Note here their four-fold profitableness in V.16.
 - (1) For doctrine.
 - (2) For reproof (conviction).
 - (3) For correction.
 - (4) For instruction (discipline, or complete education) in righteousness.
 - b. Therefore, through “the Scripture given by inspiration of God...the man of God may be perfect (complete, proficient, efficient, adequate, perfectly fit), thoroughly furnished (well prepared) unto all good works,” V.17.
3. See 2Pet.1:3; Jas.1:25; Jude 3;Gal.1:6-9; 1Pet.4:11; Rev.22:18,19. Cf. Deut.4:2; 1Cor.4:6.
4. Being complete and all-sufficient, it leaves no vacuum to be filled by latter-day revelations!

C. WONDERFUL BECAUSE OF ITS DEPTH OR PROFUNDITY.

1. Psa.92:5: “O Lord, how great are thy works! And thy thoughts are very deep.” (nothing so profound!)
2. Isa.55:8,9: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
3. Rom.11:33,34: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor?”
4. Heb.4:12.
 - a. Lit., it is “alive and active” – living words of great profundity.

- b. They are sharper than any two-edged sword. The idea is one of an ability to cut and deeply penetrate.
 - (1) Eph.6:17 refers to God's word as "the sword of the Spirit"
 - c. "piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit"
 - (1) Not dividing soul *from* spirit. The thought is that God's word is able to penetrate to the deepest part of the spiritual man.
 - (2) As Vincent says, "The separation is not of one part from another, but operates in each department of the spiritual man."
 - d. "and the joints and marrow" – Figuratively describing man's innermost being – representing the depth which God's word will penetrate the spiritual man.
 - e. "and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"
 - (1) The living and active word of God has the ability to judge man's heart.
5. No other law is of such nature or depth!

D. WONDERFUL BECAUSE OF ITS SAGACITY OR JUDICIOUSNESS, EVIDENCED IN EVERY AREA OF MAN'S BEING.

- 1. Wiser laws dealing with man have never been framed, nor indeed can be!
 - a. They are marked by sternness because necessary.
 - b. By sympathy out of God's grace and man's need.
 - c. By justice, due to the very nature of God.
 - d. They are punitive, without which there is no law.
 - e. They are protective for man's benefit here and hereafter.
 - f. They are menacing ("Beware, beware") in order to warn man of the consequences of his actions.
 - g. They are merciful due to God's grace on behalf of man.
 - h. They are marked by holiness and morality as a pattern for man's earthly life.
- 2. An all-wise God by means of his Word has given us a perfect guide and a holy and righteous standard of judgment and conduct to let us know what he desires and expects in order for us to please him.

E. WONDERFUL BECAUSE OF ITS POWER

1. It has power to convert, to save, to justify, to sanctify, to make men righteous, Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38; Rom.1:14-17 (Gal.2:15,16); Rom.10:1-4; 3:19-26; 2Th.1:6-10; 1Jno.3:7; Jno.17:17; Ac.20:32.
2. It has power to enable us to resist the devil, Jas.4:7; 1Pet.5:8,9; Mt.4:4,7,10; Cf. 1Cor.10:13.
3. No other law has ever existed, nor does any other law presently exist, or ever will exist, with such wonderful power!

F. WONDERFUL BECAUSE OF ITS UNIVERSAL APPLICATION AND AUTHORITY.

1. All spiritual laws of strictly human origin (which are all spiritual laws other than that revealed by God in the Bible) are limited in authority and apply to only one segment of human society. And even then they are limited in scope. Not so with God's Word revealed in the Bible.
2. It's the only law ever given with authority over, or binding upon, all nations the world over; it is unlimited in authority, scope and application, Mt.28:18-20; Mk.16:15,16; Eph.4:5,6.
3. It's the only law ever given by which all men will be judged in the last day, Jno.12:48-50. Cf. Deut.18:18,19; Ac.3:19-26; 4:12; Heb.5:8,9; 2Cor.5:10; Phil.2:9-11; Rom.2:16.
4. Only God could give such a law with such authority, scope and application. Indeed, it is wonderful! A marvelous thing!

G. WONDERFUL BECAUSE OF ITS DURATION.

1. Most things with which we are familiar and have to do are temporary in nature and duration.
2. This is not true of the wonderful "testimonies of the Lord." They are eternal in nature.
3. Earthly, material things will pass away. Even heaven and earth shall pass away, shall come to an end, cease to be, 1Jno.2:15-17; 2Pet.3:9-12.
4. God's word shall not pass away, Psa.119:89,160; Mt.24:35; 1Pet.1:22-25.
5. What a wonder, marvelous thing it is!

H. WONDERFUL BECAUSE OF ITS MULTIPLE BLESSINGS DECLARED IN PSA.19; PSA.119.

1. They are perfect, converting the soul, 19:7.
2. They are sure, making wise the simple, 19:7; 119:30.
3. They are right, rejoicing the heart, 19:8.
4. They are pure, enlightening the eyes, 19:8.
5. By taking heed to them man cleanses his way, 19:9.
6. By them God's "servants are warned: and in keeping them there is great reward," 19:11.
7. By hiding them in the heart, they keep one from sinning against God, 119:11.
8. They offer comfort in one's affliction, 119:50.
9. They are better than thousands of gold and silver, 119:72.
10. They are a lamp unto the feet, and a light to one's path, 119:105.

III. CONCLUSION

1. How wonderful it is; how truly marvelous; there is none to compare!
2. The fundamental message of our text (119:129-136): The Law of Jehovah is the Way of Righteousness, of Redemption, of Divine Favor, our Guiding Light, and our Spiritual Understanding.
3. Some general lessons to be gleaned:
 - a. The Word of God is wonderful (a marvelous thing) indeed! It is wonderful in all its multitudinous characteristics.
 - b. Keeping God's Word is for our benefit – the better life while here, and eternal life and happiness in the here-after in the presence of God, Jesus Christ and the redeemed of all ages.
 - c. It is only the Word of God that can give us true spiritual light and true spiritual understanding.
 - d. It is the very special way God blesses all who love him. See Rom.8:28-32.
 - e. When we walk according to God's word, sin cannot gain or have dominion over us – the devil can't touch us!
 - f. Only by our learning, loving and doing God's will found in his written word can we have his favor bestowed upon us!
 - g. Like the Psalmist, we ought to "shed streams of tears" because some refuse to respect God's law, 119:136.