

Commentary on Psalm 19:7-14

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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Series*) for **October 10, 2010**, is from **Psalm 19:7-14**. Five **Questions for Discussion** follow the *Bible Lesson Commentary*. The **International Bible Lessons** can be read at: <http://internationalbiblelessons.com/>; new *International Bible Lessons* are published each Saturday.

Psalms 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

The law to love God and your neighbor is the perfect law. All of God's laws can be summed up completely in the law of love. When we receive the love of God into our hearts, and in turn love God, others, and ourselves, our soul, our spiritual dimension, receives and experiences new life and hope. When we obey the judicial decisions of God then we will become more wise. Simply reading the Bible can make us feel better when our spirit needs uplifting.

8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

God's commands and principles are always right, and obeying God is always right. Believers receive a special sense of satisfaction, and their hearts also rejoice, when they obey God, especially when tempted or threatened to disobey God. God's commandment to love, to seek to do the loving thing and promote the well-being of others, God clearly stated in the Bible. When we intend by choice to obey God's command to love, he will show us how to do so, even in the most difficult of situations.

9 the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

A healthy fear of the consequences of not loving God or not loving others or not loving ourselves can help us live pleasing to God and ourselves (if not always pleasing to all others). We will have reverence and respect for God forever. The directions for life that God has revealed in the Bible are clear, correspond to the reality of our world and our nature, and are right for all people in every way.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Knowing the principles, commands, and rules under which God wants us to operate, and upon which God operates according to his nature and relations with the world God has created, is more desirable than the best things we can possess or the best foods we can eat. Knowledge of the truth, of true and right ways, will help us in any life situation we might face, which is more valuable than

possessions (which can easily be taken from us, and which we cannot take with us when we die).

11 Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

From fear of the Lord, we can anticipate the consequences of disobeying the Lord. Rules and ordinances always include the consequences of disobeying them (and sometimes the rewards for obeying them). These threatened consequences act as a warning to us to obey God, to try to keep on loving God no matter what we may be suffering or how we are being persecuted for our faith in God. The best motive for obeying God, however, is the love for God we have in our hearts.

12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

We do not see ourselves as clearly and without bias as God sees us, and sometimes others see us. If we do not use God's standard of measure or cannot see into the hidden recesses of our hearts to know our intentions, we cannot detect our errors or our self centered choices. But we can pray for God to show us our errors so we can correct them with his help, and also forgive us and cleanse us of these faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

In insolent person will look down upon us as unworthy of notice or respect, and often show us how much they despise us in their words and actions. If they begin to take control of our lives, we can be tempted to break the law of love toward others and even toward ourselves. We can pray for the Lord to keep such people from us, and also to change such people into the loving people God wants all people to become, so we are not led into sin in response to them and so others are protected from them too.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

We can pray for the Lord to work in our heart, apply his love to our heart, and instill his principles within our heart as we read the Bible. If our heart is right, and if our efforts to contemplate God's law and its application are right, with God's help, our inner thoughts and spoken words and outward actions will be right. God and his law of love are a solid rock upon which to stand and build our lives; if we fail from time to time, our loving God is our Savior and Redeemer. This verse of scripture can easily be memorized and prayed prior to teaching a lesson or preaching a sermon. God will hear such a prayer when humbly offered.

Five Questions for Discussion

1. As you were reading the Bible, have you ever felt the encouragement, love, and protection from God that he wants you to experience as his Holy Spirit confirms the truth of his Word to you? Does this experience encourage you to read the Bible more often, especially when you feel that you need to draw closer to God?
2. If you do not feel love for someone (perhaps an enemy) or loving toward someone (perhaps someone who has hurt you), how can you still love them as the Lord commands?
3. How can you love someone without condoning their actions, behavior, or words?
4. Why is it important to truly love someone before you try to influence them to change their behavior to what the Lord commands? How might you pray for the Lord to help you love them and make them ready to listen to you?
5. In what ways can you meditate on the Word of God with both your heart and your mind? Why does God want us to fill our minds with truths from the Bible and think about them as our form of Christian meditation? How do truths from God's Word have an effect upon our heart?

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