Loving God's Word Above Material Things

- The Psalmist declares a great love for God's commandments above precious metal (<u>Ps. 119:127</u>)
 - a. This is not the first time he has done so in this Psalm (cf. Ps. 119:72)
 - b. There is great reward in keeping God's Word (<u>Ps. 19:9-11</u>)
 - c. Wisdom and understanding are <u>greater</u> than material wealth (<u>Pr. 3:13-18</u>, <u>8:10-11</u>, <u>18-19</u>, <u>16:16</u>)
 - d. Million dollar question: Do I love God's Word above material things?

Compare and Contrast God's Word With Material Things

- 1. God's Word endures forever (<u>Ps. 119:89</u>, <u>160</u> see below; <u>Isa. 40:8</u>; <u>Lk. 21:33</u>)
 - a. "The sum of thy word is truth; And <u>every one of thy righteous ordinances</u> <u>endureth for ever</u>." (<u>Ps. 119:160</u> ASV)
 - b. Material things are temporary (<u>Pr. 23:5, 27:24; Mt. 6:19; 1 Tim. 6:7; 2 Pt.</u> <u>3:10</u>)
- 2. God's Word is certain (<u>Dan. 2:45; 2 Pt. 1:19-21; Heb. 6:18-20</u>)
 - a. Material things are uncertain (<u>1 Tim 6:17; Pr. 23:5</u>)
- 3. God's Word provides happiness (<u>Ps. 119:1-2</u>, <u>128:1</u>; <u>Lk. 11:27-28</u>; <u>Pr. 3:17</u>)
 - a. Material things (especially <u>trusting</u> in them) produces sorrow (<u>1 Tim. 6:9-10</u>)
 - b. Material things do not satisfy! (<u>1 Tim. 6:6</u>)
- 4. God's Word makes one to stand (<u>Eph. 6:11, 14; Pr. 24:16</u>)
 - a. Trusting in material things will make one fall (Pr. 11:28)
- 5. God's Word is pure and purifies (<u>Ps. 12:6, 19:8-9, 51:10; Mt. 5:8</u>)
 - a. Material things choke the Word and corrupt the heart (<u>Mt. 13:22</u>)

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- 6. God's Word brings about salvation (<u>Ps. 119:41</u>, <u>81</u>, <u>123</u>, <u>155</u>, <u>166</u>, <u>174</u>)
 - a. Trusting in material things brings about death (<u>Lk. 12:16-21; Mt. 16:25-26;</u> <u>Mk. 10:17-27</u>)
 - b. Job understood that putting trust in gold and wealth was to <u>deny God</u> (Job 31:24-28)
 - c. Riches will not deliver one from wrath (<u>Pr. 11:4; Ezek. 7:19; Zeph. 1:18</u>)
 - i. But righteousness will (<u>Pr. 10:2</u>)

We Should Be Seeking God's Word Not Material Wealth

- 1. Parable of the pearl of great price (<u>Mt. 13:45-46</u>)
 - a. Do we count all things but loss that we may gain Christ? (Phil. 3:7-8)
 - b. If people studied their Bibles as much as they sought after material things think about how much greater the church would be! (<u>Pr. 2:3-6</u>)

Hating Falsehood

- 1. The Psalmist acknowledged that God's Word is right which led to him hating all falsehood (<u>Ps. 119:128</u>)
 - a. There is no doubt that God's Word is right (<u>Ps. 19:8-9</u>)
 - i. Time and again God's Word has been proven to be so
 - ii. Satan could not stand up to it when tempting Jesus (Mt. 4:1-11)
 - iii. God's Word will not return void (<u>Isa. 55:11</u>)
 - b. What is falsehood?
 - i. false (*sheqer* H8267 sheh ´-ker) <u>an untruth</u>; by impl. <u>a sham</u> (often adv.):—without a cause, <u>deceit (-ful), false (-hood, -ly)</u>, feignedly, <u>liar</u>, + lie, lying, vain (thing), wrongfully. (Strong 121)

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- 2. Why so much falsehood?
 - a. Satan is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44)
 - b. He was there casting doubt on God's Word in the garden (Gen. 3:1-4)
 - c. He has been busy ever since casting seeds of doubt and deception (<u>Job</u> <u>1:7</u>)
 - d. There are many false teachers in the world (<u>1 Jn. 4:1</u>)
 - e. Man wants to do things his way sometimes (Pr. 14:12, 16:2, 18)
 - i. They think they are right (<u>Pr. 12:15</u>)
 - ii. We know better (Jer. 10:23)
 - iii. Thus, we must take heed (1 Cor. 10:12)
 - f. Ignorance is a factor (<u>Rm. 10:1-4; 2 Pt. 3:3-7; Hos. 4:6</u>)
- 3. We succumb to falsehood when we are not armed to protect against it (<u>Eph.</u> <u>6:10-17</u>)
 - a. <u>Question</u>: What does my armor look like?
 - b. I must be sure that I suit up <u>daily</u>
- 4. Many falsehoods to hate and as such oppose:
 - a. Denominationalism (<u>1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4</u>)
 - b. Atheism, skepticism, agnosticism (Ps. 14:1)
 - c. Cults, mysticism, the occult (Gal. 5:20-21)

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- d. False teaching within the church
- 5. We care and love souls thus we teach to bring others to Christ!

Conclusion

- 1. Do I love God's commandments above material things?
- 2. Do I hate every false way?
- 3. If not, why not?