

## Six Jewels From The Lord

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**Psalms 19:7** The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

**Psalms 19:8** The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

**Psalms 19:9** The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

When we come across portions of the Bible like this one we have a tendency to read them with the idea that Scripture is really speaking about a single subject about the Lord. We look at law, testimony, statutes, commandments, and judgments and are prone to think of them in only one sense. But, when we remember that such verses as these are inspired by the Lord for the purpose of instructing, correcting, informing, guiding the people of God in all ages, we might be inclined to take a closer look at them and see what the Lord is really saying. When we do that, God very frequently opens up a treasure house of revealed truth to our hearts and we are allowed to gaze upon the diversity of jewels that He has laid up for us in those things. This is exactly the case with these song verses sent to us by the Holy Spirit through the song-making of David. There is truly an uncovering of six precious jewels straight from the Lord in these song verses and we want to look at them and consider each one. If we are allowed by the Holy spirit to have their beauty opened to us this morning, we can go away from this service filled with gladness and enriched by knowing the mind of the Lord.

### I. First Jewel: v.7 The Law of The Lord

- ❖ The word for law here (Heb. pronounce “torah” [taw-raw]) is understood as instruction, doctrine or teaching. This is both a jewel OF the Lord and a jewel FROM Him as well, as we will see.
- ❖ So, what are the instructions, doctrine, or teachings of God?
  - They are a body of principles or fixed rules that reveal the essence of God’s attitude, ideology, and values
    - Illustration depicting how attitude, ideology and values are revealed: the President just this last week held a conference with national medical professionals from CDC and others. In that conference he was briefed on the threat of corona virus to the country and what steps needed to be taken

- to reduce or eliminate those threats. He acted immediately (attitude of taking action) to quarantine Americans who could be carriers because he understood and believed that short-circuiting any threat was worth the extreme measures he had enacted (ideology). Further, his statement about what he was doing was in order to protect the American people and prevent large scale damage to the stability of our society (values).
- The commendation of the law of the Lord is, that **it is perfect**. By this we should understand that what and who the Lord is has no blemish; We see this unblemished persona of our God in, His law, his instructions, teaching.
    - Humans may question the perfections of the Lord's way of looking at things, but the flaws they think they see are only in their perceptions of Him.
  - What is the benefit of this jewel (the law of the Lord) to the Lord's creatures? "converting the soul"
    - Same word used in **Psalms 23:3** He **restoreth** my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
    - Example to consider when trying to understand "converting" in our text: Jesus to Peter (**Luke 22:31-32**) "when thou art **converted**...."
      - What kind of conversion do you think Peter went through that night? You would have to suspect that he learned not to be so sure of himself as to human behavior. He obviously also learned a lot about the weakness of the flesh. He almost certainly learned something about the unerring accuracy of his Lord's teaching ("before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times")
    - "Conversion" of a **lost sinner** is accomplished by the Gospel of Christ, and while this is part of the teachings of the Lord, it is specific element of His teaching, but our text speaks about all the doctrines of the Lord being that which leads the soul to changes.
    - But, **our text speaks to saved people**. And it tells us that the **instructions or teachings of the doctrines** of the Lord **have the power to change the outlook in our souls, the values, the moral and ethical philosophies of life**.
      - Illustrate: A man is driving home on a strange 4-lane highway one night and suddenly there is traffic on his side of the road coming toward him...he runs his car off on the right of way and as he sits there, every car that shows up is coming toward him...none are coming from behind. As he thinks about this strange thing, he looks over at the other two lanes in this setup, and notices that cars are passing his

location from behind and going in the direction he wishes to go. What might he reasonably assume from all this? 1) that he is in the wrong two lanes and 2) that he has been driving on the wrong side of this roadway, and 3) if he intends to keep going in the direction he wants to go, he's going to have to change lanes - what will a sane man do when he realizes this? He is converted to get on another lane, to abandon the dangerous path he is on!

## II. Second Jewel: v.7 "The Testimony of The Lord is sure"

- ❖ This "testimony" alludes to the Lord's witness about everything and especially about Himself. So, whatever other witnesses say about God, the things He says about Himself can be depended upon.
  - This is a critical truth about the Lord, because it is often the exact opposite with humans who have selfish motives.
  - It is proper that the Lord Jesus said, "I am..the truth..." (**John 14:6**)
- ❖ Whatever other witnesses may say about other things also, could be wrong. And they are wrong if the things they witness contradict God's statements about it.
  - If He says He will do something; that is what He will do.
  - If He says He will not do something; that He will not do
  - If He tells us that He is such and such a Lord, He is all of that
  - This jewel allows us to trust implicitly in "the Lord saith."
  - If He says things are a certain way, then they are just that way
- ❖ What is the benefit of this jewel: "...**making wise the simple.**"
  - Nothing can open up the realities of life more than understanding and trusting in the witness of God about everything
  - It makes wise folks out of even those who are without education, without sophistication, without savvy about the world, about life, about the things of creation.

## III. Third Jewel: v.8 "The Statutes of The Lord"

- ❖ The Psalmist narrows down the focus of his song to look at how it is that God has communicated to us in rules handed down exactly what His values are. That communication is found in His statutes.
  - (Before we look at some facts about statutes) it is important to understand that the **law of God** (what His attitudes, ideology, or values are) **exists without any "codification."**
    - Let's illustrate this: When we were all just toddlers, we were already being made aware of Dad and Mom's value system, and what their

- attitudes were. For instance, when dad came in from being out in the field or working somewhere that messed up his boots or shoes, you and I learned that he had a habit of either cleaning his shoes on the porch, or pulling them off before coming in. It was one of the rules he lived by. This gave us some insights into both his attitude and values, as regards the internal law he lived by about boots and shoes (have clean feet when going in; going in with clean feet has some benefits to it).
- Now let's say that later on, you were a little older and you started in the house with dirty boots...dad was standing there and he grabbed you by the arm and said "we always pull off our dirty shoes and boots...you clean them well before we go in." Dad has just declared a statute. That statute was created by him because that was the law he lived by.
  - So, statutes are the Lord's code of regulations. A code of regulations is a body of rules for how to live; how to abide by the values of the entity that has written and adopted the regulations.
  - The Lord's statutes are the driving force, the instructive power, and the set of guidelines which reveal to us what to do in order to live according to the Lord's values.
  - Examples of the Lord's statutes:
    - The most obvious: the Ten Commandments
    - There are other codes:
      - The regulations given to the Jews for observing their religious practices
      - The regulations he gave them for eating and drinking, for social and business relationships
      - There was a statute for Adam and Eve
        - ◆ Statutes Christ declared which were not in what is quoted as the Ten Commandment:
          - ✦ Love the Lord your God with all your soul, might, strength" - Note: He called this the first commandment in **Mat. 12:30**
          - ✦ Love your neighbor as yourself (**Mat. 12:31**)-Note: He called this the second commandment
          - ✦ (You can read the original "Ten" Commandments in **Exodus 20:3-13**)
  - ❖ So what does the Psalmist say about the statutes of the Lord:
    - "The statutes (Heb. "pik-kood' ") of the Lord are **right**." We as believers would automatically admit that the Lord's statutes are right. But what is God wanting us to get out of this statement?
      - We know how much every man is wedded to himself, and how difficult it

is to eradicate from our minds the **vain confidence of our own wisdom**. It is therefore of great importance to be convinced that a **person's life cannot be orderly, cannot be correct, unless it is framed and directed by statutes (or regulations) of God**

- ❖ What benefit to His creatures?
  - God's "statutes rejoice the heart." This implies that there is no other true and solid joy but that which comes to us when we are walking according to the statutes (regulations) of the Lord.
  - This is because we know when we walk in His statutes we are pleasing and acceptable to Him, and He is pleasant and enjoyable to us.

**IV. Fourth Jewel: v.8 The Commandment of The Lord:** "...the commandment (Heb. "mits-vaw") of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes."

- ❖ Our minds almost always drift to the Ten Commandments when we see this word in the bible.
  - But we see from God's statement in **Gen. 26:5** that it must mean something else. He said, (before the Ten Commandments were given): "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and **kept** my charge, **my commandments** (mits-vaw') my statutes, and my laws"
  - Furthermore, (as we just saw) the Ten Commandments are part of God's code of regulation. What then do we need to understand this singular word (commandment) to be speaking about here?
    - The psalmist is referring to the **whole demand of obedience to God for mankind**. The commandment of God here should be thought of as an institution, like we think of "human society" or "government." So, this is about the **body of God's demands upon creation**.
      - Let's illustrate: It starts raining, and we take a pan out, set it on the ground and let some of the rain fall into it, one drop at a time. As those drops are falling into that pan, each has its own identity...they are independent of each other. But once they fall into the pan and the rain stops, we pick up the pan and what we see is a pan of water. Consider each of the raindrops to be one demand that the Lord makes upon His creatures...now consider all of them together like the water in that pan. The water in the pan would symbolize the body of God's demands upon creation. This is the way to view the use of the word that looks singular in our text verse, but is really singular because the Lord wants us to consider the whole "ball of wax."
    - From the command of "let there be light" to the command that stopped

time which we read about in **Rev. 10:6**, the commandment of God exists as a body of declarations from Him.

❖ Now, let's look at the attributes of the commandment of God:

“...the commandment of God is pure”

➤ Simply, there is no mixture of different principles or contradicting purposes in God's commandment. We should view them that way and it will help us in our reasoning process when we start trying to comprehend why things are ordered by the Lord the way they are. If we start with the assumption that there are no cross-purposes, no compromising of the Lord's principles in what has been ordained, executed, or demanded by Him, we will have a more clear understanding of some of the things He is doing.

❖ And that brings us to the second attribute of His commandment-that is, the benefit to His creatures: “...enlightening the eyes.”

➤ This suggest to us that humans, with all their ability to “see” details, relatively speaking, either have poor vision or are blind, and always wander in darkness, until they turn their eyes to the light of heavenly doctrine.

**V. Fifth Jewel: v.9 The Fear of The Lord:** “The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever:”

❖ This statement really brings home the fact that the Psalmist is singing about things that apply to believers.

➤ To say that fear of the Lord is clean, it must apply to believers, because we know that in pagans, heathens, and unbelievers fear of "a god" causes idolatry, superstition, and malice. So, for them, this fear is twisted and is not a clean fear...but then, it is not actual fear of the one true God.

➤ But for believers, fear of the Lord is clean because it provokes us to reverence of Him. It is clean because it is a fear that has the right motive (born of knowing His power as well as His mercy and grace).

▪ Note Moses' way of teaching the children of Israel the different meaning of fear: **Exodus 20:20** And Moses said unto the people, **Fear** not: for God is come to prove you, and that **his fear** may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

• The first "fear" here is being afraid as though there was a cause to dread, the second "fear" here is to morally reverence.

• We should see and understand that reverence for the Lord is clean.

➤ While we usually think of the fear of the Lord being something that begins with man and its target is the Lord, this verse teaches us that this kind of fear is initiated by the Lord. He does this so that we will be provoked to reverence

Him as He ought to be.

- We are reminded by **Psalms 36:1** and **Romans 3:18** that among the wicked "there is no fear of God before their eyes."

**VI. Sixth Jewel: v.9 The Judgments of The Lord:** "...the judgments of the LORD *are true and righteous* altogether."

- ❖ If we think of the word "verdict" or the idea of "sentencing" here we can get the meaning of the Psalmist. The verdicts of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- ❖ The Lord makes no mistakes when He passes a verdict or declares a sentence (true)
  - (Illustrate by the recent takeover of umpire calls by decisions based on video shots of the sport event: the umpire is afflicted with limited perception and by subjectivism; the camera records exactly what is there, it is totally objective, and has no preferential prejudices. Comparison: all other judgments in creation are like the umpire while the Lord's judgments are like the camera; He sees it all and passes judgment based on it all. They are true.
- ❖ The Lord's judgments are not too severe and they are not too light (they are true in the sense of being equitable)
- ❖ "...and righteous altogether." The Lord's judgments or verdicts prove Him to be right; they clear Him of any falseness; duplicity, etc. He is totally vindicated by His judgment.
  - This is important because many humans have accused the Lord of injustice, severe and unfair judgment.
  - At the final judgment every mouth will be shut tight and the whole world will be guilty before God. He will be vindicated and proven to be fair and right in all His judgments upon His creatures.