

❖ **Intro:**

- **How many of us in here are tired of sin...?**
  - Tired of disobeying God? Living in rebellion against our Maker?
- **What if I told you... there was a way to maybe not sin...**
  - **What if I said... today... I have the key to keep you from sin...**
    - And I could assure you... if you follow this plan...
      - ◆ You will dramatically cut out your sin...
  - **And if you will do what I am about to tell you...**
    - You could possibly keep yourselves free from sin
    - Imagine a life free from sin...
  - **And even better yet...**
    - Not just a life free from sin...
    - But a life happily free from sin...
    - Meaning... you wont miss it... your mind and heart will not long for sin...
- **What if I told you I would sell it to you for...**
  - One payment of 99.99
  - How many of you would buy it...?
    - Just checking to see if I could make a little money on the side... LOL
- **Well... I have a plan... and it will work...**
  - **And I can assure you it will work...**
  - **I can not assure absolute perfection...**
    - But I can assure a very steady and continue growth in freedom from sin
    - Provided that you indeed have the Spirit of God living within
      - ◆ Because you believed on the Lord Jesus and were saved...
      - ◆ **If not... I can assure you... my plan will help you get closer to THAT!**
- **But... I can't take credit cause I did not come up with the plan...**
  - God did.... And ... It is Scripture Memorization
    - Read with me

Psalm 119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

❖ **Pray for the weight and the truth of this verse to hit deeply in our hearts...**

❖ **Example of Beachbody.com**

- P90x infomercial... p90x2, p90x3
  - Insanity... T 25
- **They make promises... lots of promises...**
  - And they show before and after pictures...
  - And they say... if you will follow our plan... you could lose this much weight...
    - You will feel better... you will get off a lot of medicine... etc...
- **They are right!**
  - **It does work... I remember the first time I bought one of these...**
    - P90x... it was tough... but it worked... I dropped 30 lbs...
    - I felt great...
  - I see clients all the time... and I give them a plan...
    - **And if they stick to it... it always works...**
- **Why? Because it is how we are made... Our body responds...**
  - It is predicated on three things
  - 1) Proper Exercise 2) Proper Nutrition 3) Proper Rest

- When those three things work together... a person gets amazing results...
- **Let's Begin moving this illustration to our Spiritual Lives**
  - **1) Proper exercise is the hard work and effort we put in**
    - Our body responds to that and it gets stronger and more efficient
  - **2) Proper nutrition is how we feed and hydrate our body**
    - Our body responds because we are what we eat...
    - Our body composition is made up of over 70% water...
    - And we need the right minerals, nutrients and vitamins for a healthy body
  - **3) Proper Rest helps in our recovery and mental state...**
    - the body grows and recovers during times of rest
  - **Consider the effects of an improper lifestyle...**
    - **Improper exercise leads to weak muscles and a heart that is inefficient...**
      - ◆ meaning it would have a difficult time getting oxygen to our body
      - ◆ if we had to run across the yard to save a kid from danger
    - **Improper nutrition leads to the building up of dangerous fat around our organs**
      - ◆ And it could lead to many other illnesses
    - **Improper Rest leads to a body that is run down...**
      - ◆ to a mind that is emotionally spent and to a life that is lacking enjoyment...
- **This is more than an illustration... but not my point this morning**
  - **I do not want to say this is just an illustration...**
    - Because I believe strongly that we should take care of our bodies...
  - **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**
    - I also readily admit that I personally do not do a very good job in this area...
      - ◆ So... take care of your bodies!... They are a gift from God...
  - **But, let's take care of them because of the Spiritual Ramifications...**
    - So... let's move toward our main point today...
    - And that is... Placing God's Word in our hearts so we do not sin against Him!
- **In the same way that our physical bodies respond to:**
  - Exercise... nutrition... and rest...
    - Work... food... rest...
  - **Our souls respond as well...**
    - **Our souls must be: Exercised, fed and rested...**
      - ◆ Our souls must be made to work and study the word of God
      - ◆ They must be fed the Word of God
      - ◆ And they must rest in the Word of God...
  - **And when we do this:**
    - We will have a healthy walk with the Lord...
      - ◆ Filled with power and enjoyment
- **This is where Psalm 119:11 comes into play today:**
  - This is the very first verse I remember memorizing as a young Christian
    - And it has been a constant reminder of how important God's Word is
  - Lets look at the verse in its context...

#### ❖ **The Verse in its context**

- **Psalm 119:9-16 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. <sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! <sup>11</sup> I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. <sup>12</sup> Blessed are you, O**

Lord; teach me your statutes! <sup>13</sup> With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. <sup>14</sup> In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. <sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. <sup>16</sup> I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

➤ **What is at stake here in these verses?**

▪ **How can a young man keep his way pure?**

- Now I assume you understand that this applies to all people...
  - ◆ men, women, young, old

▪ **The answer to how we can keep our way pure???**

- **Guarding it according to your word....**

▪ **How can we guard it?**

- The psalmist then says... **With my whole heart I seek you**
  - ◆ So the person that longs to be pure in his walk with God
  - ◆ Must seek God with his whole heart...
- **The psalmist contrasts seeking God with his whole heart with...**
  - ◆ Wondering from his commandments...
  - ◆ He asks for God's help to keep from **wandering from his commandments...**

▪ **Then... Here is the way for the Psalmist as He sees it...**

- And this is God in His divine kindness and mercy instructing us
- God is giving instruction through the writer of Psalm 119...
- In verse 11 He gives us a **most practical answer...**

▪ **The Psalmist has asked the question... how can he keep his way pure...**

- Then he answers... by guarding it according to God's word...
- But that doesn't give us **enough detail** does it...
  - ◆ He just says guard it with God's word...
- **He continues by explaining the type of effort we must put into it...**
  - ◆ With our whole heart...
- And remember... He has asked God to keep him from wandering from God's ways

▪ **The Practical Answer: Storing God's Word in his heart**

- **I have stored your word in my heart that I might not sin against you...**
- Scripture memory is the key to not wandering from God

▪ **The Psalmist continues...**

- And it leads to **praise**... He stores up God's Word in verse 11...
- Then in verse 12... blessed are you O Lord

▪ **Then in verse 13... He is repeating God's Word with his mouth...**

- He has placed it in His heart... so now He can say in verse 13
  - ◆ <sup>13</sup> **With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.**

▪ **This storing, or treasuring of God's Word leads to:**

- **Delight... !**
- The psalmist goes from wanting to walk in a pure manner before God...
- And not wander away from God's commandments...
- And now... after they are stored in His heart... he **delights** in them..

▪ **The Psalmist has found enjoyment in the Word of God...**

- It has created delight... and much delight...
- We delight in earthly riches in our culture...
  - ◆ we watch reality TV shows that encourage this...
- **But this man says he delights in God's Word more than in ALL RICHES...**
  - ◆ <sup>14</sup> **In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.**
  - ◆ Not much riches... but ALL riches!!!

▪ **He continues doesn't he?**

- He has placed God's Word in his heart...it has caused him to bless and praise God
- It has created delight in this man...
- **Now...He meditates on God's Word...**
  - ◆ He thinks upon it... He considers it and ponders it...
  - ◆ **Can't meditate very much on something that is not stored in your heart can you?**
  - ◆ He is like the man in Psalm 1 who meditates on God's word day and night
    - And is therefore like a tree planted near rivers of waters...
    - Bears fruit and never withers...
- **This thinking upon God's Word bears fruit in this man...**
  - It helps him fix His eyes on the ways of God...
  - **<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.**
    - ◆ Now the man is living as we are instructed in Colossians 3
      - **Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**
- **Finally... the man continues to delight in God's Word... but more than that...**
  - He perseveres in it... He keeps it... He doesn't forget it
    - ◆ **<sup>16</sup>I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**
  - When God's Word is committed to memory in the inner man
    - ◆ He will **not soon forget it**... because it is stored in the inner being...
- **So... this is where we find this great verse tucked away in the Bible...**
  - **Ready** to teach us and encourage us here today...
    - And there is good reason as to why we ought to consider this verse today...
    - **Because** we should be working our way back to better bearing the image of God
      - ◆ We were created in the image of God...
      - ◆ And our purpose in Life is to bear His image...
      - ◆ To represent Him to all mankind...

## ❖ **Called to Bear the Image of God**

- We can say this in so many ways... and they mean the same thing...
- **The Chief end of man is to: To Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever**
  - We glorify God by mirroring His image to the World around us...
- **Sin is the cancer that is wreaking havoc on our image bearing and enjoyment of God**
  - It is destroying our fellowship with God
  - It is the cause of the wrath of God
  - Sin is leaving you without joy and purpose and direction in your life
  - Sin is the problem...
  - Satan is the author of sin... and He is using it to destroy us... look at him
    - **1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**
- **If we could all look to the inner man this morning...**
  - If we could see you walking around without your physical body...
  - **And we were just able to see the Spiritual Aspect of who you are...**
    - What would we see?
    - Would we see a frail anorexic looking person...
    - Or someone filled with life and vigor?
- **So... Here in lies the great purpose of storing God's Word in our Hearts...**
  - Because it helps bring us back to where we were made to be...
  - It helps restore us to our original state...
    - Through the working of the Holy Spirit of God...

- **God's Word has a Sanctifying Quality to it...**
  - It helps in making us Holy...
  - **Jesus promises** to present us before the Father in our designed state of perfection...
    - **Colossians 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—**
      - ◆ He does this through His work on the cross first...
      - ◆ And it washes and cleanses us...
- **God's Word also Sanctifies us...**
  - It **first** leads us to Christ... and then keeps us in Christ...
  - Jesus Himself said this in His prayer in John 17
    - **John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."**
- Let's look a little closer at verse 11

### ❖ That I Might Not Sin Against You

- **The Psalmists desires to stay away from sin...**
  - Oh how easy it is for sin to come in and devour you...
    - Satan wants to eat you alive
    - He wants to destroy your life and your family...
- **The psalmists great concern is that He would sin...**
  - Sin is rebelling against the Lord... It is missing His mark of Holiness...
  - Remember last week that God's wrath is revealed from heaven against what?
    - All ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...
  - **When we do not live godly lives...**
    - Perfectly reflecting the God who created us...
    - Living for Him with our whole heart and Life...
    - We are in sin...
- **The Psalmist is truly concerned with sinning against God...**
  - **Are we concerned?**
  - **Do we even care?**
    - Or do we take the attitude of so many so called Christians today...
      - ◆ It doesn't matter if we sin... we have Jesus to cover our sins...
      - ◆ That is **heresy**...
    - **Jesus did not die on the cross so we could be less like Him...**
      - ◆ He did not cover over our sins, so we would have the freedom to sin more...
      - ◆ You see how that makes no sense?
  - Jesus died to restore our fellowship with God by covering our sins...
  - **The heart of the truly born again Christian...**
    - Would be one of concern for how they conduct themselves before God...
    - They will care that they walk in God's ways...
- **So, the Psalmist says... "that I might not sin against you"**
  - That is His concern...
  - **Also notice the tense of the verb.... Sin against you...**
    - It is in what is called the **imperfect** tense...
    - Meaning it is not a completed action...
    - He is not saying this will automatically keep him from sinning...
    - But... the purpose is that it **may** keep Him from sin...
- **Now look at what He does to keep Himself from sin...**

### ❖ Stored Up Your Word in My Heart

- **This Word for “stored up” is translated in different ways...**
  - Hidden... or treasured...
- **The meaning is rich:** it does mean to treasure... but not just **seeing** it as a treasure...
  - He **treats** it as a treasure... therefore... He stores it in His inner being
    - In His heart...
  - **He also** doesn't just store it like one would store junk...
    - He **treasures** it...
- **Illustration:**
  - **Earthly treasures....** People place their valuables in lock boxes in banks...
  - **Our government places its gold at Fort Knox which is considered impenetrable**
  - **People spend millions in search of lost treasures like:**
    - The supposed treasure at Oak Island
    - Many of the great treasures on the ocean floor lost at sea...
    - Ancient civilizations yet to be found...
    - Possible cities of Gold
      - ◆ **People get excited... and they spend lots of time looking...**
- **Just memorizing God's Word is of little value unless we understand it's great value**
  - There are many people who have memorized God's Word yet remain indifferent
- **Those who store it as a treasure**
  - See God's Word as uniquely valuable...
  - **They are seeing God's Word like**
    - **Psalm 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.**
      - ◆ Look at the value: greater than Gold... sweeter than honey
      - ◆ Look at the promise of reward: In keeping them there is great reward
  - **I have often asked myself a couple questions regarding my faith in God**
    - In His Word... and in His promises of future reward for being obedient...
    - **One question I ask is... How many people would I tell about Jesus... if I were paid \$1000 for each one?**
      - ◆ Do I truly believe there is great reward in bearing the fruit of new believers
      - ◆ Do I truly see their future judgment and eternal death in hell?
      - ◆ Can I see the value in reaching more people for the King?
    - **Second question:**
      - ◆ If I were given \$100 for each verse I memorized... how many would I store up?
      - ◆ Do I truly see it as a great treasure?
      - ◆ **I can promise you one thing...**
        - there isn't a soul in here that wouldn't stop everything He was doing...
          - and store up His Word
        - If there were \$100 on each one of them
  - **The Psalmists says Gods words and rules are to be desired more than fine Gold**
    - This requires faith... every verse memorized is an act of your faith in God...
    - Where is your faith today?
  - **Faith is not something we say we have...**
    - Faith is something we live out... we prove by our action...
    - There is no faith where there is no action!

## ❖ **Psalm 1 – Chief instructions for loving God's Word**

- **This is the opening Psalm**

- The very first one in the book... and it sets the stage for the rest of the Psalms
  - If you do not think that is on purpose... you lack wisdom
- It contrast the godly person verses the wicked person

➤ **Look at the Blessed Man...**

- **Psalm 1:1-6 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; <sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; <sup>6</sup> for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

❖ **The Connection Between the Wicked and Not Loving God's Word**

➤ **At some point in the past 100 years...**

- Being a Christian or righteous and good person meant we were part of a church...
- That is never the case in the Bible...
- Followers of the Lord were always lovers of His Word!

➤ **The Wicked are Not So....**

- Not what? Not a person that delights in the law of the Lord
- Not someone who meditates on it day and night

➤ **What an indictment against the church we see in our country:**

- LifeWay Research surveyed more than 2,900 Protestant churchgoers
- and found that while 90 percent "desire to please and honor Jesus in all I do,"
- only 19 percent personally read the Bible every day.
  - The average household has over 4 Bibles!

➤ **Imagine how few of them store God's Word in their heart?**

❖ **Benefits of Storing God's Word**

- 1) The Key to Unlocking Joy in Fellowship with God
- 2) Feeds your Mind
- 3) Keeps You From Sin
- 4) Makes God's Word more Precious to You
- 5) Your Communion with God Grows
- 6) Unlocks God's Promises
- 7) Helps You in Prayer
- 8) Increases your Faith
- 9) Keeps You grounded and not tossed about
- 10) Helps you recognize false teachings
- 11) Helps you through suffering
- 12) Allows you to encourage other believers
- 13) You can lead people to know Jesus
- 14) Conforms you into the image of Christ

❖ **Never in my ministry have I seen what I see now (Awana)**

- Telling kids the gospel... and they say... oh yeah... I know that verse!
- God at work in their heart

❖ **Warning: Neglecting God's Word and its affect on your family!**

➤ **Satan wants to destroy your family...**

- Those men and women who served God during the days of Moses and Joshua
  - They raised up a generation of people that forgot the Lord
  - And they did what they thought was right in their own eyes...
  - They serves false gods in the land in which they lives...
- **They had been told to remember God and what He did...**

➤ **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** <sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- This is your responsibility parents and grandparents...
- You first... then the church... not the church first then you...
- The family is the first God ordained unit in creation...
- Parents are responsible to teach kids the ways of the Lord...
  - And when we shirk that responsibilities... We are to blame...

➤ **Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.**

❖ **Invitation**

- *Chuck Swindoll wrote, “I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. . . . No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified.”*