

Psalms 119:97

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Analysis

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." The exclamatory mah ahavti toratekha (Oh how I love your law!) expresses intense affection for God's instruction. Ahav (love) indicates deep attachment, delight, desire—not mere dutiful respect. This love prompts constant meditation: kol hayom hi sichati (all the day it is my meditation). Siach (meditation/musing) means to ponder, rehearse, speak to oneself—continuous mental engagement with Scripture. "All the day" indicates not just morning/evening devotions but constant mental return to God's Word throughout daily activities. This fulfills Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (bind God's words on heart, teach them continuously, talk of them sitting, walking, lying down, rising up). Loving God's law produces constant meditation; constant meditation deepens love.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelites memorized and recited Torah extensively. Without printed books, Scripture preservation required memorization and oral repetition. Jewish education centered on memorizing Torah from childhood. Psalm 1:2 blesses those who meditate on God's law day and night. Joshua 1:8 commands the same for success and prosperity. Yet external observance didn't guarantee heart devotion—Pharisees knew Scripture intellectually while missing its heart (Matthew 23:23-28). This verse emphasizes love-motivated meditation, not mere rote memorization.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between dutiful Bible reading and love-motivated meditation on Scripture?
2. How can believers cultivate constant meditation on God's Word throughout daily activities?
3. What would change in your life if you loved God's law with the passionate affection this verse describes?

Interlinear Text

מָה	אֶה בְּתִי	תּוֹכֶךָ	כָּל	הַ יּוֹם	הַ יָּא	שִׁיחִתִּי:
H4100	MEM O how love I	thy law	H3605	all the day	H1931	it is my meditation
	H157	H8451		H3117		H7881

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:2 (Word): But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Proverbs 2:10 (Parallel theme): When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

Psalms 119:159 (Love): Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

Joshua 1:8 (Word): This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 119:48 (Love): My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

Psalms 119:167 (Love): My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.

Psalms 119:165 (Love): Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Deuteronomy 17:19 (Word): And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

Psalms 119:127 (Love): Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

Psalms 119:113 (Love): I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.