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And on His law do we meditate both day and night. As a boy growing up my siblings and I had to learn the 1st Psalm. It was one of a series of scripture passages that we had to learn. There was no compromise on this. Learning scripture passages took an even greater priority than homework in our house. Among those we had to learn were a series of the Psalms, portions of the 40th chapter of Isaiah, the Lord's Prayer and many others. But there was always something about the 1st Psalm that seemed, over the years, to stick with me. As I have talked with my brothers and sisters I realize that this

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PASTOR'S

Perspective

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too has been the case for them as well. Scripture memory was always the norm in our home growing up. I specifically remember the 2nd verse of that hymn. It says “but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law they meditate both day and night.”

With our busy lives there doesn't ever seem to be much time for meditation. It is as though we are in a world that is all talk and no receive! Meditation calls for us to stop what we are doing, open our spirits and minds and listen to what is being said to us and observe what is happening around us. Meditation calls for contemplation and reflection. When we reflect upon God's laws they make sense, and they set the right tone for living. The Psalmist was really saying once we come to understand this, then one comes to find that there **IS** delight in God's laws. We don't usually think of delight as coming from law. Instead we think of law as something that is burdensome and heavy. In this instance though, the writer would have us to consider that there is something about the laws of God that bring joy and delight. Because of this joy and delight we can mediate or be consumed by the laws of God all the time of our life in the day or the night. Imagine meditating on a law or laws. There is an old statement that says laws or rules are meant to be broken! If this is so that hardly engenders meditation.

Not so fast says the Psalmist! These laws that God has set before us are so wonderful that they bring us delight.

They remind us of God's goodness. They remind us of how God has set His laws as a form of protection and guidance. They remind us that God's laws are not set as bounds but as guideposts that tell us how we are traveling along the boulevards of life. Great though they be, the most remarkable thing about God's laws is that for those who regard them and truly write them upon their hearts, there is great reward!

The Psalmist goes on to tell us that those who find delight in God's laws are like trees planted by streams of water which yield fruit in their season. Their leaves do not wither and in all they do, they prosper! Want to talk about prosperity gospel? There it is. That's it. Want to prosper at all or in all you attempt? Take delight, take pleasure, take comfort in living according to God's laws and you and your situations become ripe for prosperity. This does not refer exclusively to material things but it also means peace of mind and spirit. It means life lived without reservation or void of confidence. It means life lived under a sense of authority as only God can give. It means life lived in joyous abandon. When this is arrived at, one can truly declare, ‘but my delight is in the law of the Lord and on His laws do I meditate both day and night!’

