

Part 4 – The Volume of the Book

In part 3 we learned what God really wants from us: our *sincere* love, which also requires us to obey Him *wholeheartedly*. And we can't fool Him, for He can see into our heart and mind and knows what we're *really* thinking *and* feeling; He even knows the intentions and motivations of our heart (Heb 4:12). And we also learned that, even though God ordained the blood sacrifices to be performed *until* Jesus Christ came, that still truly was not what He wanted. They were even offensive to Him when people offered sacrifices *without* sincerely repenting and working to put off their sinful ways. And that's what God sent Jesus Christ to earth to teach us. That's why all the blood sacrifices were a 'type' (example) of what Jesus Christ would do for us, *as well as* an example of what He helps us to do our 'inner man'. For He not only fulfilled the sacrifices (on the cross) – and atoned for our sins in the process – His Word *still* teaches us how to put off our carnal mind (the part of us that 'acts like an animal' and causes us to sin) so we can be at peace with our Heavenly Father. And the Gift of His Holy Spirit continues to teach us also, by helping us to truly understand what the written Word of God says *and* how to sincerely obey it in our everyday life. That is, IF we 'dig' into His Word and study it *for ourselves* so we truly understand what it says and learn how to obey it, *from the heart*. And thus, salvation through Jesus Christ is truly the most 'wonderful' of all of God's Works (Ps 40:5). And David will continue on with this thought...

Psalm 40

7 *Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,*

Now, Paul also quoted this verse in Hebrews 10, but in verse 7. And he did so right after quoting the previous verse (6) in this Psalm 40, which said: *Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.* In Hebrews 10, Paul was explaining the 'New Covenant' Jesus Christ makes with all those who sincerely believe in (and obey) Him. So, in other words, in verse 6 (of both Ps 40 and Heb 10) our Heavenly Father explained that blood sacrifices are really *not* pleasing to Him *and then* explains *what is* pleasing to Him. Consider what is written about Jesus Christ's Great Sacrifice...

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

*12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; **because he hath poured out his soul unto death:** and he was numbered with the transgressors; and **he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.***

Isa 53:10-12

It truly pleased our Heavenly Father that Jesus suffered to pay for the sins of the world because, as verse 11 says, His bearing our iniquities (paying for them by shedding His own blood to atone for our sins) *justifies us*. And it is because Jesus did so that the Gift of the Holy Spirit is given to us; which is what teaches us how to obey God's Word *from the heart*. And *that's* what cleanses us spiritually, enabling us to be in good favor with our Heavenly Father – insomuch that we'll be allowed to live with Him *forever* and even serve in Jesus Christ's eternal government. And truly, *all* of Isaiah 53 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Isaiah/1386] prophesies of Jesus Christ's Great Sacrifice. That's why Philip was able to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, *from that chapter*, to the eunuch the Holy Spirit sent him to, in Acts 8. But, we've covered these verses to see how *it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins* (Heb 10:4) ... only the blood of Jesus Christ could...

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Heb 9:12-15

The blood of animals only taught people about the *true* Sacrifice (Jesus Christ) who was yet to come (*at that time*; He *has* come already, but had not at David's time). So, the blood sacrifices taught them that *the wages of sin is death* (Rom 6:23). Their sins were symbolically placed on the animal, when they put their hand on the animal's head, right before it was killed (humanely). And it also taught them that sin is truly costly. Back in those days, animals were a form of wealth (truly, they still are today). Sin does cost us a lot. It decays (corrupts) our soul and separates us from our Heavenly Father, *our only true source of life*. But, it also hurts our Heavenly Father too; that's another way He 'bears' our iniquities. He puts up with sin in the hopes that many will stop rebelling against Him and return back to Him (through faith in Jesus Christ) with their whole heart, mind, soul and strength (Mk 12:30, 2 Pt 3:9). That's why He created His plan of Salvation and send Jesus Christ into the world (via a flesh body) to save us from our sins. And, in the ultimate manifestation of how much our sinning hurts Him (inside His Soul and Spirit) – as well as to show us how much He truly loves us [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344>] - He thus willingly sacrificed Himself (through being incarnated as Jesus Christ) to reveal to us the timeless truth that sin simply does not pay – *it leads to death*. And eventually it will lead to the *spiritual* death (being blotted out of existence, Rev 20) of all those who don't repent

wholeheartedly by the end of the Millennium. So, the blood of animals did not please God because they could not truly atone for our sins, nor cleanse us spiritually - but the blood of Jesus Christ did atone for our sins *forever* (Heb 10:10) and *does* cleanse us spiritually (1 John 1:7). As Lev 17:11 says, *the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.* Because the 'life of flesh' is in our literal blood, that's why it was given to make atonement for our souls. But, the blood of Jesus Christ is truly the only 'acceptable' blood to God because Jesus Christ *never sinned*. He was truly the only one 'without spot', as the Law demanded (Ex 12:5, 29:1, Lev 1-9, Num 19:2, etc.). That's why Peter wrote: *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot* (1 Peter 1:18-19). And, again, that's why Heb 9:14 says: *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* And this is why Romans 6:23 also says (after pointing out that the wages of sin is death) *the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*. So, our Heavenly Father truly is *not* happy with the blood of animals; they were only 'shadows' (types) of the real Sacrifice, Jesus Christ. But He was very pleased to see Jesus Christ's blood shed because Jesus Christ was the only one truly worthy enough (being without spot, meaning, without sin) to pay for all of our sins (sin of the flesh and of our soul) *forever*.

And that's essentially what this 7th verse here in Ps 40 is telling us. He told us in this 7th verse: *Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me*. In other words, **the blood of animals was never a permanent solution for atoning for our souls**. So, our Heavenly Father sent Jesus Christ to do what they (and we) could not: live a totally sinless life. And that's what this verse is saying when declaring that Jesus Christ would come 'in the volume' of the 'book', which is written of Him (the Messiah). In other words, at His first advent, Jesus Christ fulfilled **all** the Scriptures that were prophesied of Him (in the Old Testament), concerning His First Advent. (Thus, we know He will *also* fulfil **all** that's written about Him concerning His *Second Advent* too). From Genesis 3:15 to Deut 18:18-19, to Isaiah 7:15, 9:6-7, 53, 61:1-2 (half of 2) to Psalms 22, 69 and *so many more* Scriptures... they were all fulfilled in Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1096>]. That's why, when people questioned Jesus Christ about whether or not He was 'that prophet' (promised in Deut 18:18-19), He always deferred them to the Scriptures because the works He did (the miracles and teachings) *were written of...*

24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

John 10:24-25

37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

*38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, **believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.***

John 10:37-38

31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

32 There is another that beareth witness of me [John 16:26, the Holy Spirit]; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

*36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for **the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.***

37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

*39 **Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.***

John 5:31-39

John the Baptist testified that Jesus was indeed the Messiah (Christ) that God had promised but so did God Himself; once at His baptism (Mth 3:17), once on the mount of transfiguration (Mth 17:5) – which only three of His disciple's heard – and once amongst a group of people Jesus was teaching (John 12:28). So, twice did the Father verbally testify – among a large group of people – that Jesus Christ was indeed 'that prophet' Moses promised would come in Deut 18:18-19.

Which means Jesus really was the Messiah – the Anointed one (Christ) of God. But, as though that were not enough (even though the law only requires two witnesses for every matter to be established (Deut 17:6, 19:15, Mth 18:16), Jesus also deferred them to evaluate the many mighty works that He did *because* it was written in the Scriptures *that the Messiah would do such things*. Jesus Christ healed *many* people of infirmities, illnesses and diseases and cleansed many from evil spirits (Mth 4:24, Mk 1:34, Lk 4:40, 6:17, 7:23 etc.). Further, when John the Baptist (when he was in prison) asked his followers to go ask Jesus if He was indeed the promised one, Jesus did not outright say 'yes'. Instead, He said...

22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

23 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Luke 7:22-23

The evidence was not that Jesus performed miracles, but that the miracles were those that had been promised (i.e. Isa 29:18, 35:4-6, 60:1-3). Had Jesus Christ worked miracles far more extraordinary, *they would have been no evidence at all* that He was the promised Messiah. So, the ‘proof was in the pudding’ (so to speak). All people had to do was ‘search the Scriptures’ to see that He indeed did what the foretold Messiah would do. And that’s why this verse 7, here in Ps 40, says: *Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me*. That is essentially what Jesus said when He said to go search the Scriptures. He came in the ‘volume of the book’ *because He fulfilled the Scriptures of the promised Messiah’s First Advent*. What people had trouble grasping was that there would *also* be a *Second Advent*, because the Scriptures speak of the First and Second Advent in the same books and even the same chapters and the ‘religious’ men of those days didn’t know God’s Word well enough to discern what was really being spoken of. And, even Jesus’ disciples didn’t understand this clearly until after Jesus resurrected and then came back to clarify it to them (Mk 9:10, Lk 24:27).

Moreover, Jesus coming ‘in the volume of the book’ was also explained in the Gospel of John when it’s written: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* (John 1:1). And then in verse 14 it says: *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth*. Jesus Christ is literally the “Living Word”. Jesus lived God’s Word – His Laws – perfectly, which is why He is ‘without spot’ and was able to pay for our sins. And Paul clearly explains the reason why...

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Cor 5:20-21

God allows us to be forgiven our sins when we believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God – that promised Messiah (prophet) that the Old Testament foretold of [learn more in the special study here: <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1096>]. That’s why, after Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He *expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself* and He did so *beginning at Moses and all the prophets* (Lk 24:27). So yes, Jesus Christ did come ‘in the volume of the book’ because He is the Living Word. And He lived a sinless life, which none of us can do (Rom 3:23) to pay for our sins so we can be reconciled back to God upon sincere faith in Him. And that’s why the next verse in this Psalms 40 says...

Psalm 40

8 *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

Interestingly, the word ‘**delight**’ means (figuratively) *to be pleased with, desire* (#2654) and the word ‘**will**’ also means *delight* also (especially as shown) (#7522). And truly, Jesus’ delight *was* to do God’s ‘delight’. As it is written...

*28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that **I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.***

*29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.***

John 8:28-29

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

*50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: **whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.***

John 12:48-50

*Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? **the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.***

John 14:10

Jesus Christ did indeed do God’s Will – perfectly - which is why He greatly pleased His Father. And it was written elsewhere that Jesus Christ would delight our Heavenly Father. Isa 42:1 says: *Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, **in whom my soul delighteth**; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.* And in Matt 3:17 (when Jesus was baptized), our Heavenly Father literally testified to this, verbally: *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, **in whom I am well pleased.*** And again, it pleased Jesus Christ to fulfil His Father’s will; just as much as it pleased the Father to have Jesus Christ come to earth to testify the truth to the world and to pay for the sins of the world, too. After all, Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father are truly one in the same [<https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/460>], so they certainly have the same ‘will’ and ‘desire’. And of course, the Law of God was in Jesus Christ’s heart (as this Ps 40:8 speaks of). As it is written, the Holy Spirit was not given to Jesus Christ ‘in measure’ (John 3:34). This means Jesus Christ was completely (totally) filled with the Holy Spirit, as Col 2:10 says: *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.* And the Word of God is the Holy Spirit in written form (John 6:63). So, Jesus had all of God’s Law ‘written’ in His heart and mind. Again, this greatly pleased our Heavenly Father...

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

*15 **Who is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of every creature:
16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: [John 1, Rev 4:11]
17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. [John 1]
18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
19 For it pleased the Father that **in him should all fulness dwell**;
Col 1:14-19*

Further, if you love and follow Jesus Christ, it should be *your* desire to do God's will also. And it should also be your desire (will) to have His Law in your heart. As the Scriptures explain, having God's Word in our heart and mind IS God's Will for us (Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10, 1:16). And that's so we not only know *how* to do what's right (in our mind) but also that we *want* to do what's right (from the heart). After all, Jesus Christ is our example to follow (John 13:15, 1 Pt 2:21). As Peter said...

*1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;
2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.
1 Peter 4:1-2*

Once we've accepted Jesus Christ and truly repented for our sins – if our repentance and faith in Jesus Christ is sincere – we will *want* to study God's Word so we *know how* to live for the 'will of God'... because we no longer *want* to live for the lusts of the flesh. Recall back to chapter 39, which taught us how shallow and empty life is when we live for our fleshly desires, allowing our carnal mind to control us... it's an empty life no matter how many riches you have. Only having the Holy Spirit within us can fill that empty hole inside your soul; and *that's what makes life truly worth living*. As John also explains...

*15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: **but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever**.
1 John 2:15-17*

The things of this world - all the lusts and pride (etc.) of it - will pass away, as Rev 18 and 2 Pt 3 tell us, when Jesus Christ returns. So, those who sell their soul to the Devil (Satan) will be extremely disappointed, because all the things they so foolishly lusted after will be gone, *in an instant*, when Jesus returns. And they'll find themselves in *extreme* disfavor with the King of kings, Jesus Christ. Instead of ruling the world and having great riches, they'll be stuck in prison, wallowing in their tears for loosing the things they lusted so foolishly after. Moreover, in Mark 3:35, Jesus said that *whosoever shall **do the will of God**, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother*. That's why Paul said in Rom 8:13-14: *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God***.

Simply put: when we truly repent, we'll *sincerely* work to put off our carnal mind (the 'old man') and put on the 'new man' (the mind of Christ) which is created after God's Image of *righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24). Thus, ***our will becomes merged with His Will***; that's how we 'bind' our soul to Him, as the word 'wait' (#6960) in the Scriptures explain (Ps 40:1, Ps 25, 27, 37). So again, God was not pleased with those who offered blood sacrifices *when* they did not sincerely repent and try to do His Will... anymore than He's pleased with those who call themselves Christian (followers of Jesus Christ) but don't actually DO His will (Mth 7:21-end). ***What He wants is for us to do the will of God sincerely, from the heart*** (Eph 6:6). He wants us to *stand perfect and complete in all the will (Word) of God* (Col 4:12). The word '**perfect**' here in Colossians means ***to be complete***, as in being complete *with the divine nature that God's Word* (and Holy Spirit) help us to put in our heart and mind. Scriptures such as Ps 15, Gal 5, 1 Pt 1:14 (and many more) help us understand what characteristics we are to put on. And the word '**complete**' here in Col 4:12 means ***to be filled and furnished*** (#4137) with God's Word – i.e. ***the truth***. Paul further explains...

*1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that **as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more**.*
2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.
*3 **For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:***
*4 **That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour:***
*5 **Not** in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*
6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.
*7 **For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.***
 1 Thess 4:1-7

It is God's *will* (desire) that we put off our sinful ways and be cleansed spiritually (sanctified) because that's what saves our soul; it's what enables us to be able to live with Him forever. He truly doesn't want His children to have to die (Ezek 18, 33, 2 Pt 3:9).

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Rom 12:1-2

Only when we ‘write’ God’s Word into our heart (desires, emotions) and mind (thought process) (as Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10 and 10:16 speak of) can we be transformed into a ‘new creature’ (2 Cor 5:17, Gal 6:15), which is the ‘new man’ that the Holy Spirit creates inside of us when we sincerely repent, study His Word and sincerely strive to obey it, wholeheartedly. And again, that is God’s will for us! *He wants His Word to be in our heart*, just as they were in Jesus Christ’s...

*1 If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

*2 **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

*9 Lie not one to another, seeing that **ye have put off the old man with his deeds;***

*10 And **have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:***

Col 3:1-10

In Rom 6:1-12, Paul clearly explains that when we truly accept Jesus Christ, the ‘old man’ (that carnal mind in us) *dies*. This simply means we stop wanting to live for the flesh and begin to want to live to serve, and follow, our Heavenly Father (Jesus Christ, John 10) *because* we realize that living for sin only leads to death (Rom 6:23); it’s truly and empty and shallow life. And here in Col 3:1, it refers to those who are ‘risen with Christ’. In Rom 6:4, Paul explains this means: *we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* And he goes on to say...

*6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that **henceforth we should not serve sin.***

*7 For **he that is dead is freed from sin.***

8 *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*
9 *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*
10 *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*
11 ***Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.***
12 ***Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.***
Rom 6:6-12

That's why, in Col 3 (above) he urges us to stop living for things of this world (which only lead to the corruption, and eventual death of our soul) and 'seek *those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.* That's why we must set our 'affection' on things above and not on things on the earth, which means *to exercise the mind*, i.e. *entertain or have a sentiment or opinion*; by implication, *to be (mentally) disposed* (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); intensively, *to interest oneself in* (with concern or obedience) (#5426). So, **when we truly accept Jesus Christ, that means we sincerely work to put off that 'old man' (our carnal, fleshly nature within us, which causes us to sin)** and that's why Paul goes on to explain some of the things we need to stop doing if we sincerely believe in Jesus Christ. He also points out, in Col 3:10, that our 'new man' (the new person the Holy Spirit is transforming us into, inside our soul) *is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him* – i.e. after the image of Jesus Christ, who was without sin (Heb 4:15).

So again, that's why it's so important to study God's Word because *that's* what helps us to 'stick with' our Heavenly Father. It helps us to *continue* to learn how to put off that 'old man' *each and every day*, as Jesus said we must do in Lk 9:23 - when He said we have to deny our self and take up our cross (to kill the 'old man' in us) *daily*... IF we want to truly follow Him. And, truly, putting off the 'old man' (the carnal/fleshly way of thinking) and putting on the 'Mind of Christ, Jesus' *takes time*. It's truly a *lifelong* process to 'write' God's Word into our heart and mind (Ps 40:8). So, we must be dedicated to study God's Word *daily* and continue to strive to obey it *sincerely* each day. As Jesus said, in Mark 12:29-31, the first (most important) commandment from the Lord (YHVH) is to: *love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength* and the next is to *love thy neighbour as thyself*. These 'sum up' all of God's Word, which is why there's no other commandment greater than these (vs 31). And that's why Jesus Christ had God's Law (Will, Word) in His heart; which is why we should too if we truly do follow, and serve, Him...

Psalms 40

***9** I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.*

Although David himself truly did ‘preach righteousness’ when he was king of Israel (as his many Psalms attest to) this verse is also prophetic of Jesus Christ. Indeed, one of His life’s purposes was to teach the truth...

33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

*37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. **To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.***

John 18:33-37

*46 **I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.***

47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

*49 **For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.***

*50 And I know that **his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.***

John 12:46-50

So, Jesus Christ DID preach righteousness to the ‘great congregation’ for He taught multitudes of people, day after day, for nearly three years. He explained what God’s Word really means and thus, corrected the ‘traditions of the elders’ that the crooked religious men of the day taught the people (Mth 15, Mk 7). Further, the word ‘**preached**’ here in Ps 40:9 means **to be fresh**, i.e. **full** (rosy, (figuratively) cheerful); **to announce** (glad news): -**messenger**, preach, publish, shew forth, (bear, bring, carry, preach, good, tell good) **tidings** (#1319). That’s why it’s written that Jesus **went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God** (Luke 8:1). Jesus taught us (and showed us through His actions as well) what being righteous *really is* and how we must do the same in order to be a part of the Kingdom of God. He did not ‘refrain’ His lips from speaking what His Father told him to and God Himself

knew this, which is why He testified of Jesus that: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased* (Matt 3:17). And again, when we love and follow Jesus Christ, we should do the same...

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John 15:26-27

12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

Luke 21:12-19

We'll pick this up in part 5...

AMEN.