Saturated with the Word

When Moses wrote the book of the law, the Levites placed a copy beside the ark of the covenant (Deuteronomy 31:24-15). Joshua also had a copy. God commanded him to meditate on it day and night so that he would be careful to obey it. In order to encourage his obedience, the Lord gave Joshua precious promises, promises which also apply to us.

**Saturate your soul with the word of God, so that you become careful to obey it.** Don’t be afraid to do this. Be strong and courageous (vv. 6, 7, 9) because God has given you—

**1. The Promise of His Perpetual *Presence*** (v.5)

Hebrews 13:1-8. Knowledge of Christ’s presence counteracts—

A. The fear of *man’s threats*

B. The fear of *missing out*

**2. The Promise of a Permanent *Possession*** (v. 6)

Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 1:3-9

A. Your inheritance is *secure*

B. You must enter it through *trials*

**3. The Promise of Present *Prospering*** (v. 8)

A. You will prosper in God’s *task*

B. You will prosper by God’s *measure*

**Conclusion**. God’s promises encourage you to—

A. *Saturate* your soul with the word of God

B. *Be careful* to obey the word of God

C. Delight in the *living Word* of God

John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:1-2

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. Thinking through Psalm 1

* How do the verb phrases in verse 1 (walk..., stand..., sit...) suggest an increasing commitment to evil.
* Why is it crucial for a believer to “delight” in the law of the Lord rather than simply to obey it?
* Why is meditation on God’s word essential for yielding the fruit God desires to produce in our lives?
* Does this Psalm promise success in all the endeavors we dream up out of our own hearts? Why or why not?
* Compare Psalm 1 with Jeremiah 17:5-8. What images do these passages use for the righteous? What images do they use for the wicked?
* “The Lord knows the way of the righteous” (v. 6). God is not ignorant of the wicked. What is suggested by the fact that God “knows” the righteous? See, for example, Psalm 37:19; Nahum 1:7; John 10:14, 27; 2 Timothy 2:19.
* How does this Psalm point beyond worldly success to our eternal inheritance?
* **How does Psalm 1 reinforce the lessons of Joshua 1:1-9?**

3. How can the following verses be applied to our relationship to Christ as the living Word of God?

Psalm 119:97, 103, 105

4. Why should meditation on the Old Testament (even the Law) lead us beyond a list of dos and don’ts to Christ (Luke 24:25-27 and 44-47).