

## 93.1 A Sweet Hunger

**Psalm 119:103** (NKJV):

**How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

How many copies of the Bible do you have at home? A better question, how often do you read them?

There is something inside of us that craves the words of God. People worldwide would love to have access to and read the word of God in their languages. I ran across an article in the back of my NKJV Bible entitled “*The History of the King James Bible*” and discovered some fascinating truths about our hunger for the word of God.

In the sixteenth century, **William Tyndale** illegally translated the Bible into English. He was eventually arrested and killed for this high crime. When **King Charles V** executed Tyndale on October 6, 1536, before he died, he cried out, “*Lord, open the eyes of the king.*” Two years later, God opened the eyes of **King Henry VIII** (at least partially) and he permitted an English publication of the Bible.

**Thomas Cromwell**, the Earl of Essex and advisor to the king, issued a royal decree from King Henry on September 5, 1538, stating that the clergy should provide . . .

*“one book of the whole Bible of the largest volume in English, and the same set up in some convenient place within the church.”*

He added they . . .

*“should discourage no man privily or apertly [openly] from reading or hearing of the said Bible, but shall expressly provoke, stir, and exhort every person to read the same, as that which is the very lively word of God.”*

The English people were enthusiastic about their newfound privilege and began reading the scriptures, even interrupting church services. The problem was so significant that the king made a proclamation in April, 1539 forbidding parishioners from reading the Bible aloud in church services.<sup>1</sup>

The Bible is a unique book; it is simple yet complex. I feel like I am holding a piece of eternity in my hands when I read the Bible because we can never get to the end of the Book, and there is always something else to learn. The Bible is powerful as it can change and mold our lives. **Psalm 119:11** (NKJV) reminds us:

**Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.**

A friend recently heard a former Soviet KGB agent who became a Christian tell his conversion story in which he spoke of his participation in the execution of hundreds of Christian pastors in the USSR. After he converted, he began working in a seminary in Moscow that trains pastors for ministry to replace some of the men he helped execute. Rather than persecuting him and his school, the Russian government backs off of their work because they have found that Christians make better citizens than pagans, Muslims, and atheists.

I have supported **Eastern European Missions** for years because they publish and distribute Bibles in former Communist countries. Until the recent Zelensky persecution of Christians, Ukraine had reacted similarly to that of the Russian government. They found that the Bible makes better citizens there, too. EEM puts Bibles in the public schools of Ukraine and makes them available to adults. The children read the Bible as part of their curriculum and are better students. Their parents read the scriptures and become better people.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*. Nashville, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982, pp. 1220-36.

For over two centuries, boys and girls in America grew up reading and learning from the Bible in public schools. Satan, our political leaders, and Supreme Court Justices knew what they were doing when they removed the Bible. Bent on destroying America, they knew that the Bible was in their way. One KY Supreme Court Justice said schools should remove the Ten Commandments because the children might read, think about, and imitate the instructions. He was right, and so they took down the commands.

I feel for our school teachers, especially public school teachers, who must be instructors and prison guards. Most of our teachers are interested in educating our kids, but the system is flawed because “**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction**” (Proverbs 1:7), and we have removed the fear of the Lord from the education process. I recently watched a video where a large and powerful student attacked and beat his teacher for taking away his Nintendo in class. A Marine happened to be in the school and pulled the attacker off, or he might have killed her. Schools are war zones because we removed God and His word.

Our forefathers held the Bible in high esteem. Listen to a few quotes:

**Benjamin Rush:** “*The gospel of Jesus Christ prescribes the wisest rules for just conduct in every situation of life. Happy they who are enabled to obey them in all situations.*”

*“[T]he Bible, when not read in schools, is seldom read in any subsequent period of life. . . . [It] should be read in our schools in preference to all other books from its containing the greatest portion of that kind of knowledge which is calculated to produce private and public temporal happiness.”*

**Patrick Henry:** “*The Bible. . . is a book worth more than all the other books that were ever printed.*”

**John Jay:** “*The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts.*”

The word of God is so essential that men have risked their lives translating and printing it in their languages. They have endangered their lives by illegally distributing copies of the Bible in Communist countries because they chose to “*obey God rather than men.*” The words of God matter, as Jesus said in **John 5:39** (NKJV):

<sup>39</sup> **You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.**

Our Founders knew the value of scripture, and so does Satan. Is it any wonder that the adversary has employed corrupt government officials to remove it from our schools? He has, in essence, removed it from our churches, too. Christians may read the word of God, but we rarely practice it.

We can point fingers and fault those who have led us down the wrong road, but we have a bigger job. America was once a powerful and free nation, but no more. Our freedom is an illusion. We are weak and enslaved to the whims of those in charge of our government. The solution to our dilemma is GNA, which begins with His word.

Can we agree with **Psalm 119:162** (NKJV)?

**I rejoice at Your word  
As one who finds great treasure.**

Keep The Light of *Hungering for the Word of God* Burning!