

INTRODUCTION

1. Last Wednesday night we began a study on “The Uniqueness of the Bible.”
2. And in our first message, we said that the Bible is the Word of God.
3. Statements like “And God said,” and “the Word of the Lord came to me saying” illustrates this truth.
4. We also heard what Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:15-16 (NASB) and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.
5. Tonight, we are looking at what flows out of last week’s message and that is “The Bible Can Be Trusted.”
6. As we consider this, I want to invite you to take God’s Word and turn with me to Psalm 19:7-9.
10. Read Psalm 19:7-9.
11. In the passage there are 7 claims of Scripture.
12. Two are found in verse 7, two in verse 8, three in verse 9.

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Psalm 19:7-11
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13. And each of the claims produces something in your life.
14. Beginning at verse 7 Scripture is said to be “perfect” and “sure”.
15. In verse 8 it is said to be “right” and “pure.”
16. In verse 9 it is said to be “clean,” “true,” and “righteous.”
17. Because Scripture is “perfect,” it restores “the soul” (v.7a).
18. Because it is “sure,” it makes “wise the simple” (v.7b).
19. Because it is “right,” it rejoices “the heart” (v.8a).
20. Because it is “pure,” it enlightens “the eyes” (v.8b).
21. Because it is “clean,” it endures “forever” (v.9a).
22. All this is summed up in verse 9 by stating it is “true; they are righteous altogether.”
23. This is the Word of God and it can be trusted.
24. It is, as Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

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25. Notice the first part of that verse.
26. It is “living and active” as opposed to being dead and powerless.
27. In fact, when put to the test, it does exactly what it says it will do.
28. No wonder that it is called “the Book of Books” (D. James Kennedy, *What If the Bible Had Never Been Written*, p.3).
29. Notice first ***the attributes of God's Word*** (vv.7-9).

I. The Attributes of God's Word (vv.7-9)

A. It is Perfect (v.7a)

The Psalmist says, "The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul."

1. That means it is complete

"Perfect" Heb.tamiym, "complete, whole, comprehensive, all-sided." It can also mean "pure." It is translated "without blemish" 44 times in the AV.

- a) Prov.30:5 - "Every word of God is pure" (NKJV).
- b) Ps.12:6 - "The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times."
- c) Ps.119:140 - "Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it."

"God's Word is pure, without spot or blemish," but it is also "complete, comprehensive, all-sided as to cover all sides of an issue."

2. Not only is it complete but it is able to totally transform the inner person

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- a) It can take someone without hope and given them hope
- (1) Ps.119:49
 - (2) Ps.119:81
 - (3) Ps.119:114
 - (4) Ps.119:116
 - (5) Ps.119:147
- b) The Word of God can take a dirty, wretched, vile, impure person and totally transform them on the inside
- (1) That is exactly what Jesus does at salvation - Ezek.11:19-20

““And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.””
 - (2) According to 1 Peter 1:23 this occurs through the Word of God:

“For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living

and enduring word of God.”

B. It is Sure (v.7b)

“The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”

“Sure” Heb. Aman, “trustworthy”

1. God’s Word can be trusted - Ps.119:41-42

“May Your lovingkindnesses also come to me, O Lord, Your salvation according to Your word; 42 So I will have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.”

D. James Kennedy says, “The well-known children’s hymn declares: ‘Jesus love me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.’ But with all the doubts cast on the Word of God by the critics of the Bible in the last two centuries or so, we might sing, ‘Jesus loves me? I don’t know. I wish someone could tell me so!’” (Ibid., p.209).

2. God’s Word can be trusted in all areas of life

a) It can be trusted to tell you the truth about God

(1) The Bible says He loves you - John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world”

- (2) The Bible says He sent His Son to die for you - John 3:16:

“That He gave His only begotten Son.”

- (3) The Bible says you can have eternal life - John 3:16:

“That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

- b) It can be trusted to tell you the truth about Jesus

- (1) The Bible says He was born of a virgin - Mat.1:23:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel , ‘which translated means, ‘God with us.’”

- (2) The Bible says He lived a perfect life - 1 Pet.2:22:

“who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth.”

- (3) The Bible says He died for your sin -

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Rom.5:8:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

- (4) The Bible says He resurrected from the grave on the third day - Mat.28:6:

“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.”

- (5) The Bible says He's coming back for His church - John 14:6

- (6) The Bible says He's going to judge the world for their sin - Acts 17:30-31:

“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

- c) It can be trusted to tell you how to live your life

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- (1) The Bible says you can have joy in trials (Jas.1:2-4)
 - (2) The Bible says you can have peace with God (Rom.5:1)
 - (3) The Bible says you can have the fruit of the Spirit produced in your life (Gal.5:22-23)
 - (4) The Bible says you can have victory over sin (Rom.6:6-12)
 - (5) The Bible says you can have wisdom in marriage (Eph.5:22-25; 1 Pet.3:1-7)
- d) You can trust every Word of the Bible
- (1) John 17:17
 - (2) Ps.119:151 - "All your commandments are truth."
 - (3) Ps.119:160 - "The entirety of Your Word is truth, and everyone of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (NKJV).
- C. It is Right (v.8a)

"The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart."

“Right” Heb.yashar, “It lays down a right path”
(MacArthur).

1. God’s Word provides a right path
 - a) You will not go wrong following the council of the Bible (2 Tim.3:16)
 - b) It is the only means where *the man of God* may be complete (2 Tim.3:17)

“Man of God” is a technical term “for a preacher of divine truth” (MacArthur).

“Complete” Gr.artios, “fitted, complete, perfect” (Thayer).

Fritz Rienecker gives the definition:

“completely outfitted, fully furnished, fully equipped, fully supplied” meaning “having everything one needs” or “capable of doing everything one is called to do” (MacArthur).

- (1) Ps.119:98-100, “Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. 99 I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts.”

- (2) Prov.2:6, “For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and
understanding.”

- c) It warns you of what will harm you
 - (1) It warns you about sin by telling you that
the “wages of sin is death” (Rom.6:23)

 - (2) It warns you about running with those
who follow after sin - Prov.1:10:

“My son, if sinners entice you, do not
consent.”

 - (3) It warns you about Satan by telling you to
“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil
and he will flee from you” (Jas.4:7).

- d) It shows you the right way to live
 - (1) It teaches you to fear God - Eccl.12:13:

“The conclusion, when all has been
heard, is: fear God and keep His
commandments, because this applies to
every person.”

 - (2) It teaches you to love God - Deut.6:5:

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“You shall love the Lord your God with
all your heart and with all your soul and
with all your might.”

- (3) It teaches you to love one another -
Mat.22:39:

“The second is like it, 'You shall love
your neighbor as yourself.’”

- (4) It teaches you how to be Spirit-led and
controlled (Gal.5:16)

2. God's Word is the right path

- a) It is the path the light is on - Ps.119:105:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.”

- b) This is why it is “sure” and “trustworthy” – it
won't let you down - Ps.119:128:

“Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts
concerning everything, I hate every false way.”

Abraham Lincoln said, “All things desirable to men
are contained in the Bible.”

That is why Christian Johnson said, “A Bible that's

falling apart probably belongs to someone who isn't."

D. It is Pure (v.8b)

"The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

"Pure" Heb.bar, "clear"

1. It lets you see what you would never see

- a) At salvation God gives you a new heart - Ezek.36:26:

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

- b) God also gives you new desires - Ps.37:4-5:

"Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it."

- c) With a new heart and new desires comes a new awareness of Him - 1 Cor.2:9-10:

“But just as it is written, ‘Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.’ 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.”

2. It opens your eyes to Jesus
 - a) David prayed: “Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.” (Ps.119:18).
 - b) Paul prayed: “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 9 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might” (Eph.1:17-19).

E. It is Clean (v.9a)

“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever.”

“Clean” Heb.tahowr, “pure, clean” (Strong), “without spot” (MacArthur)

1. God's Word is pure

a) The psalmist recognized this truth

(1) They are “pure words” - Ps.12:6a:

“The words of the LORD are pure words.”

(2) They withstand every test - Ps.12:6b:

“As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.”

Charles Spurgeon said, “In the original there is an allusion to the most severely purifying process known to the ancients, through which silver was passed when the greatest possible purity was desired; the dross was all consumed, and only the bright and precious metal remained; so clear and free from all alloy of error or unfaithfulness is the book of the words of the Lord. The Bible has passed through the furnace of persecution, literary criticism, philosophic doubt, and scientific, discovery, and has lost nothing

but those human interpretations which clung to it as alloy to precious ore” (The Treasury of David, p.56).

b) Every child of God recognizes and believes that God’s Word is pure

(1) David again said in Ps.119:140, “ Your word is very pure, Therefore Your servant loves it.”

“In the Word of God, there is no admixture of error or sin. It is pure in its sense, pure in its language, pure in its spirit, pure in its influence, and all this to the very highest degree – very pure” (Spurgeon).

(2) Agur said in Prov.30:5 that “every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him” (NKJV).

Thomas Manton said, “As pure gold suffers no loss by the fire, so the promises suffer no loss when they are tried, but stand to us in our greatest troubles.”

2. God’s Word is unadulterated - 1 Pet.2:2:

“Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the

word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”

“Pure” Gr.adolos, “guileless” (Strong), “without deceit, unadulterated” (BAG), “pure” (Vine)

- a) It will not deceive you
- b) Nothing needs to be added to it

Craig Keener says, “‘Pure’ milk meant that it had not been mixed with anything else; the term is used in business documents for sales of unadulterated foods” (IVP Bible Background Comm: NT).

- c) It will grow you

Warren Wiersbe says, “God’s Word has life, gives life, and nourishes life” (The Bible Exposition Comm.)

F. It is True (v.9b)

“The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.”

1. God’s Word is the truth

- a) It can withstand every critic - (Pilate - “What is truth?” - Jn.18:38)

- b) It can satisfy every one who investigates its claims (Nicodemus - Jn.3:1-2)
2. The Bible affirms its truthfulness
- a) Ps.119:142 - "Your law is truth."
 - b) Ps.119:160 - "The entirety of your word is truth" (NKJV).

Thomas Goodwin said, "God hath but three things dear unto Him in this world, His saints, His worship, and His truth; and its hard to say which of these is dearest to Him."

G. It is Righteous (v.9)

"They are righteous altogether."

"Taken separately or corporately, God's judgments are manifestly pure and righteous" (Falwell).

1. It is called "righteous" (v.9) also Ps.119:138:

"You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness And exceeding faithfulness."

2. It is called "Your righteous judgments" - Ps.119:7:

"I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments."

II. The Appetite of God's Word (v.10)

“They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.”

A. God's Word is to Be Desired

“Desired” Heb.chamad, “to desire, covet, take pleasure
in, delight in”

“The words of God's Word are more precious than the
finest commodity man possesses” (Falwell).

1. “More...than gold”
2. “Yea, than much fine gold”

Ps.119:72 - “The law of Your mouth is better to me
Than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”

3. It is “sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb”

Ps.119:103 - “How sweet are Your words to my
taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

B. God's Word is to Occupy the Greatest Place in Your Heart

1. It must be your greatest priority - Job 23:12:

“I have not departed from the command of His lips;

I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

2. It must be your greatest desire - Ps.119:20:

“ My soul is crushed with longing After Your ordinances at all times.”

III. The Authority of God's Word (v.11)

- A. It Provides Warning

“Moreover, by them Your servant is warned.”

“Warned” Heb.zahar, “admonished”

1. It warns us of sin - Gal.6:7-8:

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

2. It corrects us when we sin - 2 Pet.2:15-16:

“Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he received a rebuke for his own transgression,

for a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man,
restrained the madness of the prophet.”

B. It Promises Great Reward

“In keeping them there is great reward”

1. Prov.4:1-8
2. John 14:21, “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

CONCLUSION

1. God's Word can be trusted.
2. It is *perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, truth and righteous?*
3. And because of this, it is more desirable *than gold, yea, much fine gold. It is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.*
4. Let's thank God for His Word and that we can trust it.
5. Let's pray.