

## The Sufficiency of Scripture

Psalm 19:7-14

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Please stand to honor the reading of God's word this morning church.

*Ps 19:7-11 – “The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.”*

Please continue to stand as we pray.

Our passage this morning is one of the most profound and concise statements of what God says about the sufficiency of His word. We've used that word in our sermon series and I know that we have had several definitions. It is always best to allow scripture to define and describe scripture. I believe it is also helpful to clearly define terms so there is no confusion.

I know this summer we have heard a few different explanations or definitions of what we mean when we use the word Sufficiency.

Often sufficiency is thought of as a capacity issue. Sufficiency is often thought of as just being “enough”. I would like my glass full or I would like my stomach filled and so we pour or we eat until we are “full”. But imagine if you will being at a large feast. Maybe it is at your grandma's house and it is a Thanksgiving feast. Everyone has worked for days making all of everyone's favorites. At the end of the meal when everyone is finishing up from the table Grandma says with a smile.....”what did you think son?” With no hesitation you push back from the table patting your belly and say with a sigh.....”it was sufficient.”

I don't know about you but if that is my mom.....you better hope that a Turkey leg isn't too close because that bad boy might be coming right at your head. LOL

You see when scripture speaks of **SUFFICIENCY** we aren't just talking about **CAPACITY** but also **ABILITY**.

The word “Sufficiency or Sufficient” Appears in ESV 15 times. 7 times in old and 8 in the NT. The context of those statements are really helpful.

When we look at the context and the meaning of it’s use and how Scripture explains itself we see that the word sufficiency is far reaching and broad in it’s definition.

Sufficiency is about the **CAPACITY** and **ABILITY** of scripture to accomplish what God ordained it to do.

That begs the question.....What is it that it is to accomplish? This is the fundamental question?

### **What has God ordained His Word to accomplish?**

#### **Isiah 55:11**

10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

### **So what is it to accomplish?**

God says “it will accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it?”

What is the “thing” – what will it accomplish?

#### **2 Timothy 3:16,17**

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

If you are reading from the NASB the word complete is translated as “adequate”  
Adequate – same contextual meaning as the word Sufficient

Greek word (Artios) – Perfect, complete or fitted for.

**You may still be asking okay.....fitted for what? Complete to accomplish what exactly? God has given us the answer.**

## **2 Peter 1:3**

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,  
Everything pertaining to life and Godliness

Greek word for “Everything”

Greek (Pas) – each, every, any, or the whole collectively. Very comprehensive in it's meaning. Real time reality right now.

**So in short God's word is given to us to teach, to reprove and correct and to train us so that we can be made “righteous” ie – more like Jesus (sanctification) so that we can be fitted (complete, perfect) for every good work in accordance with the entirety of this life and in our efforts toward growth in Godliness and all of this is sealed in the promise that God gave us His word and has said it will accomplish this task.**

Now – I believe many of you would affirm the introduction and give a hearty amen!

This morning my desire is that we would allow God through His Word to help us see what it looks like when we connect the dots of this doctrine to our lives.

My concern for you church is that you know and mentally believe that the sufficiency of scripture as a doctrine is important. It may even be one of the fundamental reasons you come to Christ's Church. What we believe is most clearly communicated not so much in what we say or what we have in our doctrinal statement but **HOW WE OBEY** and **SUBMIT** to what God's word says.

Our Worship of God as it relates to the sufficiency of Scripture and this doctrine isn't just having it down on our doctrinal statement. It is taking God at his Word in the midst of our days and moments of life. It is to follow his word and obey it in the midst of conflict. In the midst of sorry and grief. In the midst of trial. In the midst of persecution.

***You can say you believe in the sufficiency of scripture but in your life you are not treating it as such. You turn to other things, man centered reasoning, hope in***

*something other than God, you chose fear over faithfulness, you choose to find your own path through reconciliation rather than Gods, you chose to find comfort in things other than God. Maybe you chose material possessions or food for your comfort. Maybe you choose sinful pleasures and lustful thoughts over being satisfied in Christ. All of those things point to a heart that is not taking God at his Word. A heart that does not truly believe that God's word is sufficient in your life.*

**We say we believe in the Sufficiency of Scripture but when the decisions of our daily lives are held into the mirror of obedience and submission to God's word it is like the scene from Princess Bride where Vizzini keeps using the word Inconceivable..... finally Inigo standing over the cliff (after Wesley fell off the cliff but apparently is still alive) looks down after hearing Vizzini say "Inconceivable" again and looks at him and says.....I do not think it means what you think it means"**

I know you would affirm this Doctrine in writing Church – but do you know what it really means for every area of your life?

That's right.....Every aspect.....there are no gaps that Psychology needs to fill, there are no man centered philosophies or man centered strategies to make up where God's word lacks. It is complete it lacks nothing when speaking to us about our lives. It does not need to be updated, revised or modernized in order to be relevant and applicable.

God's word is sufficient both in Capacity and in Ability. That is why we don't integrate secular psychology into biblical counseling because it undermines the capacity of scripture to deal with life's problems and it is inadequate to have the ability to solve those problems. Psychology is great at tearing you apart but it does not have the answers to putting you back together!

So we don't throw around worldly labels for what God defines as sinful behavior that Scripture is sufficient to address.

Every time I turn around there appears to be a new secular label for man's sinful behavior. Yes they can be helpful in determining certain characteristics of behavior but if you have come to believe that man has the answers to fix them they don't.

As it relates to issues of the heart and the consequences of sin your answers don't lie with your doctor writing you a Script but in God's Word where He points you to JESUS as your Lord and Savior. That is why when dealing with depression,



anxiety, fear and the list goes on and on you need biblical holistic care for your body, mind and spirit from those that fear God and believe His Word is Sufficient.

Otherwise you will spend your life treating symptoms and never dealing with sin biblically that may be present and causing your problems.

### **DO NOT FORGET THIS!**

God's perfect counsel to us through Christ and His word are reflected in his very character. That is why the prophet Isaiah proclaims this....

#### **Isaiah 9:6**

6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Who is our wonderful Counselor Church? Not man centered psychology but Jesus as revealed in God's word. The word that was made flesh and dwelt among us.

**Our text this morning helps us connect the dots of the doctrine practically to our lives.**

Psalms 19 takes us on a walk of the sufficiency of scripture and helps us understand the capacity and ability of scripture practically.

Lets first look at the **context of the Chapter** then we will look at the structure of this passage and then before we get into the text I would like to highlight a couple key points.

#### **The Over Arching Context:**

Psalm 19 shows **two ways** God has **revealed Himself** in the world. The **works** and **words of God!**

In **19:1-6** David shows the **Revelation of God in Creation**. General Revelation or sometimes it is called **natural revelation**. (19:1-2)

As man looks **out into the world** in which he lives,

- > He sees the **sky**.
- > He sees the **beauty/trees**
- > He contemplates the miraculous water cycle.
- > Man views the **heavens, the stars**.
- > Truly, the **heavens are declaring the glory of God**.

**Rom 1:20** states ...*“since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”*

As man **looks out into his world** it doesn't take a **genius** to realize that **God has revealed Himself in creation**. This is why it tells us in **Ps 14:1** that the **fool has said in his heart there is no God**.

But not only has **God revealed Himself in creation**, secondly, and even the **greater revelation** of God, He has revealed Himself in **THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD**.

We would never **know of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, heaven and the hope of eternal life** if He would not have spoken.

Remember it is **God's Word** which got the whole thing going.....he spoke the world into existence (Gen 1) and it was His Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. (Jnl:14)

How amazing, that the **God who spoke and decreed the universe into existence** has **revealed Himself** to us personally in His Word.

Let's look at the **overall structure** first. **The Psalm gives Six Distinctive Titles for God's Word: (Nouns)**

- 7 **Law** of the Lord
- Testimony** of the Lord
- 8 **Precepts** of the Lord

9     Commandment of the Lord  
      Fear of the Lord  
      Judgments of the Lord

Each line is **saying something** about **what the Bible** is, yet each **line has its own unique contribution**. Each line represents a foundational truth and how it is then applied. In essence it is saying.....here is the promise and here is the application.

In the six phrases, we are told that the Scriptures are **the Lord's**. Hebrew is **Jehovah** - His **covenant name**.

This is significant because it places the emphasis on the Promise of God to his people. He is a God whose word is true.

**Tetragrammaton, the Sacred**, (tet'rah-gram'ah-tahn; Gk., 'four letters'), the designation for the four Hebrew consonants YHWH that comprise the name of Israel's God (Exod. 3:15; 7:2). The name itself was considered by the Hebrews as too holy to utter so the word 'Lord' (Heb. **adonai**) was substituted when the text was read. The hybrid word 'Jehovah' is a combination of the vowels of 'Adonai' with the consonants of the tetragrammaton.

All that to say.... this is a name for God that when read should bring us to listen to what is being said.

Illustration: When E.F. Hutton Speaks....When Greenspan speaks...

Sadly we have had a flippant and even dismissive view of God speaking through His word even in church.

We barely have an expectation that you would even have a physical bible. We value convenience over intimacy and it chips away at our view of the Bible.

Paul says to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:13 "devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture!" Why? Because that is where the power is.

I can hear you crying already...."what do you mean?" we all have an app on our phone!

Listen church – don't resort to treating God's word as ordinary just because it is convenient. Give God's word a place of honor in your life, treat it differently because it is. Don't have it compete for your attention with apps, and snaps and dm's and emails and text and all the things we can easily be distracted by when we come to hear from God.

A digital, convenient and cavalier view of the bible gave way to a digital, convenient and cavalier view of the church. All the devil had to do was mix in a little fear of man and fear of our flesh.

**Consider this.....**I could have riveting illustrations and dynamic presentation, I could have the perfect story, the perfect outline and have an acrostic that would make English majors across the globe listen in amazement so much so that you would be moved with an incredible force of emotion but guess what.....there is no promise from God that my words will have any lasting affect on you. But listen to this...

### **Isaiah 46:10**

My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose.

### **Isaiah 55:10,11**

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**So first we have Six Distinct Titles.....Second we have Six Descriptive Qualities.**

In v.1-6, the Hebrew term for God is El...Creator God.

Secondly, the structure shows Six Descriptive Qualities of God's Word. (Adjectives Describing the Titles)

- 7 Perfect
- Sure
- 8 Right
- Pure
- 9 Clean
- True

Thirdly, there are Six Beneficial Effects of God's Word in the life of the believer.

(Verbs)

- 7 Restores the Soul  
Makes Wise the Simple
- 8 Rejoicing the Heart  
Enlightening the Eyes
- 9 Enduring Forever  
Righteous Altogether

The first **four effects** are what **Scripture** does for men, the **remaining two are** what Scripture **is in itself**.

Each line of **God's Word** breaks down **with...**

- > a **Distinctive Title** for God's Word
- > a **Descriptive Quality** of God's Word
- > a **Beneficial Effect** of God's Word

Combined **Transforming Power**

Let's look at these together.....

**I. The First Transforming Power of the Word of God is that it restores the soul. v.7** *"The Law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul."*

**A. Distinctive Title:** Law refers to **instruction**, doctrine, teaching!! "Law" is the word "**Torah**". A general name given to Scripture.

The **law** does **not refer** only to the **law of Moses** (first five books), but the entire **Doctrine of God**, the **whole counsel** of God. It is a **comprehensive** term for **God's revealed will found in His Word**.

**B. Descriptive Quality:** God's Word is "**perfect**" Without **error/ deceit/defect**, spotless. It is **flawless/perfect**. The Hebrew word was a common word that meant whole, complete or sufficient.

Jesus said in **Jn 17:7** - *"Thy Word is truth"*. David cried out in **Ps 119:60** - *"The sum of your words is truth."*

**Psalm 12:6** - *"The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times."*

Pr 30:5 - "Every word of God is tested;"

If something is perfect, nothing can be added to it, and nothing can be taken from it.

Spurgeon said - It is a crime to add to it, treason to alter it, and felony to take from it.

Revelation: 22:18,19

The bottom line with perfect as it applies to your soul and Gods Word is this. "There is nothing essential for man to know which may not be found there." (Barnes Commentary)

C. **The Beneficial Effect:** "it restores the soul." God employs His Word as an instrument for restoration, to revive us.

Restoring is also translated "converting the soul". Is it conversion? It could be. This restoration is.....

1. Restoring **disorder/decay/death/ sorrow**
2. An imparting of **newness of life**. To **bring back** to a state of **health/vigor**.
3. A quickening of **something** that has **fallen asleep**.
4. Bring **back the soul**. To **turn it around!**

The synonym which sums it up best is the word **transformation**.  
Illustration..... (Renovating Houses)

Ps 119 – "25 Revive me according to Your word. 37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, And revive me in Your ways. 107 I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word. 149 Hear my voice according to Your loving-kindness; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your ordinances. 156 O LORD; Revive me according to Your ordinances. 159 Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O LORD,"

Think of the things that we do to revive our soul or should I say "chill out" or "veg" or "just hang" or whatever we do to get away and do something we enjoy because it makes us feel better or takes away our stress.

Do not long for time spent with your Iphone, browsing, snapping and DMing while the Apostles and Prophets are despised. Do not allow your mind to find rest in movies and videos, Sports and TV sitcoms who mock God and use his name in vain while His Word sits under a skiff of dust...Do not let the exciting and the sensual consume your attention and contend for the place in your mind that the Word of God should dwell. -adapted quote from JC Ryle...

God's **Law** restores **our souls!** Do we believe that? Then why do we constantly run off to lesser things when our souls needs healing?

That is why the Psalmist could say: Psalm 119:97 - *Oh how I love Thy law.*

Ps 119:77 - *For Thy law is my delight.* And in Ps 119:113 – He said... *But I love Thy law.*

Ps 119:165 – *“Those who love thy law have great peace,”*

Can you quote Psalm 23 with me:

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul.

His Word restores our soul. Heb. 4:12 - *For the Word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit.*

The beneficial effect of God's Word is to restore our soul.

**II. The Second Transforming Power** of God's Word is it makes Wise the Simple. v.7b - *"The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."*

**Distinctive Title:** It is in His Word that God appears as a testimony witness for truth and righteousness. Sometimes translated “statutes.”

The Word of God is *the Testimony of God.* (like a testimony in court). His Testimony is His Word.



**Descriptive Quality.** "sure" - reliable, faithful, to be believed. "sure" is a Hebrew participle of the verb from which the adverb "amen" is formed. God has spoken, it is a sure thing!

Why the psalmist said in Ps 119:36 - *Incline my heart to Thy testimonies, And not to dishonest gain.*

Ps. 119:111 - *I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.*

Ps. 119:129 - *Thy testimonies are wonderful;*

Ps 119:24 - *Thy testimonies are my delight.* And Ps 119:14 - *I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.*

Ps 119:31 - *I cleave to Thy testimonies.* And in Ps 93:5 - *Thy testimonies are fully confirmed.*

The Word of God is not on trial. It is so certain that you can bank your whole life on it!! It is "sure".

Do not doubt it! I Jn 1:5 - *This is the message that we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

Jn 3:33 - *He who has received His witness, has set His seal to this, that God is true.*

Heb 6:18 - *It is impossible for God to lie.* And in Ps 111:7 - *All His precepts are sure.*

Because it is sure, the beneficial effect is it makes "wise the simple." What does the Scripture mean... simple?

Pr 1:22 - *(naive, foolishness) Those who are open to the entrance of good or evil. Open to persuasion, easily seduced*

Prov 14:15 - *"The naive believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps."*

Prov 7:7 - *"And I saw among the naive, And discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense,"*

It refers to those who **need guidance**, whose minds are open, **easily inclined**, without wisdom of their own.

Here, the **transforming power** of God's Word is that it makes the simple

Ps 119:130 - The unfolding of Thy Word gives light, it gives understanding to the simple.

2 Tim 3:15 – *“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.”*

The Word imparts wisdom. Pr 10:8 – *“The wise of heart will receive commands, But a babbling fool will be ruined.”*

Do you want to be a wise parent, student, or pastor? Then know and obey this book!

A Bible that's **falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't**. (Unknown)

**III. Third Transforming Power** of the Word of God is it **rejoices the heart** (v.8a). *“The precepts (statutes) of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.”*

**A. Distinctive Title:** Sometimes "precepts" is translated it means what is **mandated** by God, appointed by God.

If I said that something was mandatory would you understand what I was talking about?

We can't view God's mandates like the Governor folks. They are not merely suggestions. We have a messed up way of looking at laws in our minds because of the culture we live in especially in light of COVID.

In our cultural context the more “laws” or “mandates” the more rebellion wells up in our hearts. We see all these signs and some much do this don't do that and we are ready to lose our minds.

Reminds me of an old Black Crows Song – Resentment towards instruction.... Signs everywhere are signs blockin out the scenery breaking my mind, Do this

don't do that, can't you read the signs!

We have a distain for being told what to do! But how different should we view when God is telling us what to do?

David said in Ps 119:128 - *Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every<sup>1s</sup> false way. Ps 119:15,27,56,68,87,93,94,100,104,110,128,134,141,168.*

**B. Descriptive Quality:** Thy precepts are **"right."** (Yashar) Straight, level, upright, pleasing.

**"Right"** as opposed to crooked ways of man. **"Right"** means **morally straight**. *If you follow **God's Word, it will lead you in the right way!***

To illustrate this point, we recall our memories to Satan in the Garden of Eden in **Gen. 3**. God said - eat any fruit - but not from the fruit in the middle of the garden. *"For in the day you eat - you shall surely die."*

Satan comes along and says - *"Hath God really said?"* Satan deceived her by causing her to doubt God.

His Word is... **"right"**. **God's Word** is not perverse or crooked, but encourages the godly **to be straight**.

Spurgeon: This weapon is good at all points, **good for defense** and **for attack**... Like the seraph's sword at **Eden's gate**, it turns **every way**. You cannot be in a **condition** that the **Word of God** has **not provided**. The Word has as **many faces** and **eyes as providence** itself. You will find **it unfailing** in all periods of your life, in all **circumstances, in all companies, in all trials**, and under all **difficulties**. Were it **fallible**, it would be useless in **emergencies**, but its **unerring truth** renders it precious **beyond all price to the soldiers of the cross**.

**C. Beneficial Effect:**

When we obey it, **the benefit** is that it **"rejoices the heart!"**

Jeremiah the "weeping prophet" – Jer 8:18 – 9:1-This dude was beat up.....he was flat out sad. 2 yet this is the same man who later says is 15:16 *Thy words were*

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<sup>1</sup>David Hegg – The obedience option  
Gk. Greek

*found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and delight of my heart.*

**Ps 119:111** – *Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.*

Edwards: Oftentimes in reading (the Bible), **every word** seemed to **touch my heart**.. I seemed often to see so **much light exhibited** in every sentence, and **such refreshing food communicated**, that I could not get along **in reading**; often dwelling **long on one sentence**, to see the **wonders contained** in it; yet **almost every sentence** seemed to be full of wonders.

**Ps 119:162** – *“I rejoice at Your word, As one who finds great spoil.”* God’s Word rejoices the heart!

**IV. Fourth Transforming Power of the Word of God is it enlightens the eyes. v.8b -**  
*“The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”*

**A. Distinctive Title:** A commandment brings into view a Lawgiver who has authority to **enforce His law**. A command is **ordained** by God.

The Word Command comes from the Hebrew primitive root.

**tsavah** (845b); a <sup>2</sup>prim. root; *to lay charge (upon), give charge (to), command, order.*<sup>3</sup>

I like the message of the word here.....to lay charge upon. You see God gave us his commands because they exposed our sin. One was not capable of keeping the entire law. God’s commands exposed our sin and therefore they laid a charge upon us.

What we must understand is that these commandments given were not unjust they were not wrong they were not unfair. They had a purpose. That purpose was to expose mans sin and make us aware of our need for our sin to be atoned for.

The **fact** that they are **pure** speaks to God’s **motive or his design** in giving his commands to us.

**B. Descriptive Quality:** **"pure"**. Free from all sin. No mixture of **error defiles it; separate from all confusion and deceit**

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<sup>2</sup>Heb. Hebrew

<sup>3s</sup> ver. 104

**Illustration:** of pure drinking water

Free from all stain and imperfection. Ps 119:140 – “*Your word is very pure, Therefore Your servant loves it.*”

Ps. 12:6 - *The words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in the furnace on the earth, refined seven times.*

The idea here is that Gods Word is unmixed with evil.

C. Beneficial Effect: of the commandment is it "enlightens the eyes." It brings illumination, even guidance.

Have you ever been in complete darkness?

**Illustration:** Eyes in darkness adjust to the available levels of light.

The **eyes are mentioned** because it is by **them that we see where we are going.** The Word directs our steps.

David in 119:105 - *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

It gives not only the **eyes** to the **path**, but the **feet** to walk in the **right way**. In Ps 119:130 - *The unfolding of Thy Word gives light.*

Get this church.....The unfolding of Thy Word gives light....just as your pupils begin to dilate to pick up more light and cause your brain to begin to register what you see so does the word of God begin to illuminate your life so that you can discern the right direction.

Ps. 119:35,47 - *Make me walk in the path of Thy commandments, For I delight in it. - And I shall delight in Thy commandments, which I love.*

Do you realize that tape-recorded readings of the Bible **have proven** that you can read through the entire Bible in seventy-one hours? The average person in the U.S. watches that **much television** in less than **two weeks**. In no more **than fifteen minutes** a day you can **read through the Bible** in **less than a year's time**.

Do you believe Gods.....

- \* Law is Perfect and that it will Restore your Soul ?
- \* Testimony are Sure and that they Will Make you Wise ?
- \* Precepts are Right and that they will Restore your Heart ?
- \* Commandments are Pure and they will Enlightening your Eyes ?

Do you? How much time did you spend looking at your treasure map this week?

**V. Fifth Transforming Power of the Word of God is it endures forever. v.9a "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever."**

David has spoken of the **law, testimony, precepts, commandments** and now fear? Why **fear**? What does the **fear of the Lord** have to do with the **Word of God**?

**A. Distinctive Title: Fear of the Lord.**

**Fear** is a synonym for the **law** in as much as its **aim and object is to plant the fear of God in men's hearts.**

Listen guys...this is going to be a hard truth to grasp and here is why.

The gospel has been presented to us in such a way that we **view God** as if he is this **celestial teddy bear** in the sky who is just waiting for us to **reach up** and give him a big hug so that he can then gather us in his arms and love on us **unconditionally** for the rest of our lives regardless of how we live until we are in heaven.

Undoubtedly God is a God of love it is woven into his very character but let us not forget that He is a God of Wrath as well.

It is very difficult for our **finite minds** to understand how we are to view God in light of his wrath and his love. The two seem at odds with one another and yet scripture affirms both and assures us that the beneficial effect of "**fearing the Lord**" is going to be that it (His word) will **endure forever. What are the implications of that truth to us?**

The **Key** for us is that we are **mindful of this very fact.** That **God is Holy** – He is without Sin – Sin cannot even be in his presence.

*Did you know there are more references in scripture to Gods anger, fury and wrath than there are about his love and tenderness? Because God is Holy, he hates all sin; and because he hates all sin, his anger burns against the sinner. - Pink*

**Prov 9:10 -Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

Prov 8:13 - *Fear of the Lord is to hate evil.*

Prov 14:27 - *Fear of the Lord is the fountain of life.*

Here, the "Fear of the Lord" emphasizes the human response fostered by His Word.

Deut 4:10 – *“Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’”*

Deut. 17:19 – *“It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law”*

Deut 31:12-13 – *“Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God,”*

Pr 2:1-5 – *“My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God.”*

Our problem is that we think little of God and how powerful he is and think way too much about how important we are:

Psalm 8:3 *“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”*

Wow! Our God is big he is Super Big we are left feeling completely in Awe of Who he is.

### Three reasons why we should meditate on the fear of the Lord and God's Holy Wrath:

1. Because he is Holy and He hates sin and so should we.

*Ps 11:5 The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.*

**Sin cannot and should not be viewed lightly.**

2. It gives our soul proper perspective.

*Heb 12:28,29 28 Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.*



We must admit our culture knows very little of reverence and awe to God

3. **It draws out our praise to God for what we have been saved from.**

1 Thes 1:10 *and to wait for the Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

4. **It should motivate us to share the Gospel.** People are dying all around us and are in dire need of the good news that will keep them “from the wrath to come.” Matt 3:7, Rom 5:9, Eph 5:6, Col 3:6, 1 Thes 1:10

The **building is on fire**...there are people **trapped in side**, they are your friends, your family, your neighbors, your co-workers, your classmates....what are you doing about it. **2 Cor 5:20** “*we implore you*” is your life **IMPLORING** anyone at all? Maybe it is because you do not fear God as you should. A healthy fear that does not paralyze us to be ineffective for Christ but one that motivates us to obedience and a life controlled by the Spirit of God.

**Listen up** everyone look up here.....If you are in Christ this morning I want you to know this.

**Positionally** - You should not fear for your life your life is hidden in Christ.

**Turn to Col 3:1-3**

**Practically** – Although you are still sinning you should never be comfortable with it. You are to be about the business of putting to death the flesh and putting on Christ. **Look ahead to Col 3:1,5,12**

**If you are not in Christ** and you have never given your heart to Jesus then listen this is what Gods word has to say to you.....**Matt 10:28** *Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

**Isaiah 66:2b**

But this is the one to whom I will look:  
he who is humble and contrite in spirit  
and trembles at my word.

B. **Descriptive Quality:** describing the **fear of the Lord** is that it is "**clean**" (pure, purified). There is **nothing in the Word of God that would corrupt or defile the soul.**

The idea again here is that it is **clean, it is pure, it has not been tainted.**

You see it is hard for us to **understand** how God is to be feared because all we can think about is Jason from Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. No no no....God is to be feared because his

wrath is pure it is clean and it is not tainted by sin.

His Wrath is just as much a part of his Character as His Love. He is perfect in Love because He is Holy.

**C. Beneficial Effect:**

"enduring forever". His existence is eternal and the Word of God, like God Himself, stands forever. This is a statement of what Scripture is in and of itself..

Is 40:8 – *“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”*

Mt 5:18 – *“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”*

MacArthur: Even though (the Bible) is an **ancient document**, every **person** in **every situation** in **every society** that's ever **existed** can find in this **book things that endure** forever. Here's a book that never **needs another edition**. It never **needs to be edited**, never has **to be updated**, is never out of **date or obsolete**. It speaks to us as **pointedly** and **directly** as it ever has to **anyone** in any **century** since it was written. It's **so pure that it lasts forever**

Mt 24:35 – *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”*

No wonder Solomon said in Ecc 12:10 - *The conclusion when all has been heard, is: Fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.*

God's word will endure forever and we are eternal beings. So guess what? He has the last word!

*You can fear and stand in reverence and awe of Him in this life protected and hidden in Christ or you can fear and tremble before him in the next and do it all alone.*

**VI. Sixth Transforming Power of the Word of God is it is righteous altogether.**  
19:9...*“the judgments of the Lord are true, they are altogether righteous.”*

**A. Distinctive Title:** Word rendered judgments refers also to the **revealed truth of God**.

Judgments are the **divine evaluation of all our thoughts and actions**..“Judgments”

embraces His Law, testimony, precepts, commandments & fear. Sometimes ordinances.

B. **Descriptive Quality:** True Stability, faithfulness, sureness. Tsada To be straight, to be upright. To be just, to be **righteous**. To be true, to be in the **right**

C. **Beneficial Affect:**

David concludes this description of God's Word saying: *"They are righteous altogether"... v.10 "More desirable than gold, yes than much fine gold; also sweeter than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."*

The Psalmist esteems the Word of God more than the most prized object this world can offer.

Ps 119:14 – *"I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches."*

Ps 119:103 - *How sweet are Thy words to my taste. Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth.*

Ps 119:72 – *"The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of gold and silver pieces."*

Ps 119:62 – *"At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You Because of Your righteous ordinances."*

Ps 119:127 – *"Therefore I love Your commandments Above gold, yes, above fine gold."*

Job 23:13 - *I have treasured the Word of His mouth more than my necessary food.*

The Promise of 19:11 - *"Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward."*

"Warned" - against sin, deception and temptation.

John Bunyan had it right when he said: **this book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the book.**

JC Ryle: Do not let newspapers, novels, and romances be read, while the prophets

and **Apostles** be despised. Do not let the **exciting** and **sensual** swallow up your attention, while the **edifying** and the **sanctifying** can find no place in your mind. (gracetabernacle.org)

**"In keeping them you will be greatly rewarded."** Like **Psalm 1** – ***"you will be like a tree firmly planted."***

Psalmist finishes not by **describing God as a judge**, but as **his refuge, his rock, his chief desire**.

Our response to God's Word should be ...

**Ps 19:13-14** – ***"Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer."***

This Book **contains** the mind of God, **the state of man**, the way of **salvation**, the **doom** of sinners and the **happiness** of believers. Its **doctrines** are holy, its **precepts** are binding, its **histories** are true, and its **decisions** are immutable. Read it **to be wise**, believe it **to be safe**, and practice it **to be holy**. It contains **light** to direct you, **food** to support you, and **comfort** to cheer you. It is the **traveler's map**, the **pilgrim's staff**, the **pilot's compass**, the **soldier's sword**, and the **Christian's character**. Here paradise is **restored**, Heaven **opened**, and the gates of hell **disclosed**. Christ is its **grand object**; our good is its design, and the **glory of God** its end. It should fill the memory, rule the **heart**, and guide the feet. **Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully**. It is **given** you in life and will **be opened** in the **judgment** and will be **remembered forever**. It involves the **highest responsibility**, will reward the **greatest** labor, and will **condemn** all who trifle with its sacred contents. – Unkown Author

If you are still telling yourself that Scripture is NOT Sufficient, then you are listening to the same voice that Eve succumbed to in the Garden. ("Hath God said?" – yes he has!

The problem isn't whether Scripture is Sufficient – God makes that argument and has proven faithful to demonstrate both the **capacity** and **ability** for scripture to speak to every area of our lives.

The problem is.....the question is.....Will you obey it? Will you humbly submit to it or will you seek your own way?

I pray that we would take God at his Word and pursue obeying it together.....Amen?

David Hegg a pastor and author has said "Faith is a life-dominating conviction that all God has for me through obedience is better by far than anything this world or Satan can offer through selfishness and sin."

All that God has for you can be found right here friend!

The BIBLE yes that's the book for me! I stand alone on the word of God the BIBLE!