

Subject: God's Unchanging Word

Scripture: Psalm 19:7-14

It is mowing season and, as usual, before I mowed the first time, I had to jump start the battery on my riding mower. Some of us need to have our spiritual battery jump started or recharged because we have lost our love and enthusiasm for God's Word or maybe we have lost our confidence in it.

This psalm reminds us of the two main ways that God reveals Himself and His will to us: the created world (vs. 1-6) and the written Word (vs. 7-14). In this text we see the authority of Scripture, its ability, accuracy, the sense of awe it creates in us, the assurance we find in it, and the application of it.

1. AUTHORITY of Scripture

Notice that each of these six names for God's Word ends with the words "of the LORD." That means it comes from the Lord, belongs to the Lord, and is about the Lord. He is the source of the Word and the subject of the Word. The Lord is the author and therefore it carries the weight of His authority. When Scripture speaks, God speaks. The Bible says: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." Jesus said: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." The Bible is not man's attempt to discover God and His will. It is God's revelation of Himself and His plan, something we could not know on our own.

2. ABILITY of Scripture

The law of the LORD is "perfect" (whole, complete, sufficient). It does what no other book can do. It converts (lit., restores, gives life to) the soul, makes wise the simple (from a word that means "an open door," it closes the open door of a naïve person's mind), rejoices the heart, and enlightens the eyes (gives discernment, the ability to tell right from wrong, truth from error). It provides the light we need to find our way. "The entrance of thy word gives light." This describes the sufficiency of Scripture.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 ¹⁵ *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

3. ACCURACY of Scripture

The testimony of the LORD is "sure" (trustworthy). It is "pure" (without flaw or error). We can trust the Bible because God cannot lie and He has all knowledge and wisdom.

4. AWE of Scripture

The Bible is called "the fear of the LORD" because it creates a godly reverence in us.

Deuteronomy 4:10 *Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.*

Psalms 119:120 *My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.*

Isaiah 66:2 ...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. God is looking for people who take Him and His Word seriously.

5. APPEAL of Scripture

It is more valuable than fine gold and sweeter than honey.

6. ASSURANCE of Scripture

In Scripture God gives us many warnings and promises. When God says something, He means it. You've probably seen different messages on billboards like "What part of eternal don't you understand? – God." God gave us something much better than a billboard; He gave us the Bible.

Joshua 23:14-15¹⁴ And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.¹⁵ Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

7. APPLICATION of Scripture

God gave the Bible not just to inform us, but to transform us, to change us. Scripture is the tool God uses to convict us of sin, to convert us to righteousness, to counsel and guide us, and to comfort us. It is life-changing. My life is proof and so is yours. Martin Luther said: "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me."

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

Has the Bible changed your life? How does that work? I planted some grass seed in a couple of areas in our yard. It's like planting seed.

- Step 1 – prepare the ground
- Step 2 – open the bag and plant the seed
- Step 3 – water the seed
- Step 4 – wait and it will grow

Isaiah 55:10-11¹⁰ For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. You don't see Isaiah's name anywhere in that scripture, do you? You don't see my name or your name in that verse, do you? God's Word does what God intends for it to do without our help.

I have preached this sermon to remind you of the precious unchanging Word of God. I've preached a message like this before and it doesn't seem to make any difference. Some of you still don't have daily Bible reading and study. Some of you don't participate in SS or other Bible study classes. You hear the truth about God's Word, but it just doesn't get you started. Think again about the dead battery on the lawn mower. If the battery won't hold a charge, then you realize you need a new battery. Some of you need a jump start, and some of you probably need a new battery (heart).