

1. We return to Ps. 19 and the sufficiency of God's Word

- A. As we saw last week this is such an important study because of the age we live in
 - 1). The reliability and authority of the Scripture is under assault
 - 2). It is getting difficult to find a seminary that actually believes in the inerrancy of God's Word
 - a). As they pump men out who fill the pulpits the church is following in that error
 - B. So last week we took some time to establish who we are as a church – declare where we stand on all this
- Transition:** Let me remind you of what we believe at GSBC

Summary statement of what we believe about the Bible

- A. We believe the Bible is a book that is divinely inspired – it's author is God
 - 1). Therefore the Bible has absolute authority over both the individual and the church
Therefore it is to be read, revered and obeyed
- B. We believe that since the Bible's author is God the Scripture is inerrant
 - 1). Inerrant simply means “without error” – absolutely truthful and trustworthy
 - 2). Since God is a God who can't lie (Heb 6 and Titus 1) – His book has no lies in it
- C. We believe the Bible's reliability is not only in spiritual matters
But it is also reliable when it speaks in scientific, historical and geographical matters
 - 1). I'm amazed at how many times these have been questioned
But in time as discoveries continue – the Bible is proved to be accurate again and again

Thought: I believe to the extent the church recognizes these truths

- A. That this book is truth – every page of it – every word of it is reliable and trustworthy
And that this book is sufficient for all things pertaining to faith and godliness
 - 1). To the extent the church believes that – it will remain relevant in the society it exists in
- B. But when these things start to slip in a church – that church starts to slide into irrelevancy
 - 1). Because it starts depending upon worldly techniques, human cleverness and the opinions of man
 - a). This church does not need my opinion – it is weightless
You need to hear God's truth – taught in an uncompromised way
 - 2). As long as we teach the Bible we will be relevant
 - a). Teaching what lost man needs to hear to be saved
And teaching what the saved man needs to hear to grow in Christlikeness
 - 3). As soon as we turn from its truth we have nothing to offer

Transition: With that said let's get into our study of the sufficiency of the Scripture

The section we're concentrating on: Ps 19:7-9 (ESV) The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁽⁸⁾ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁽⁹⁾ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

1. Last week we saw there are six statements about the Word in this passage

- A. We could call this God's commentary on His own Word – an important section
- B. These six statements provide six different aspects of the scripture:
Scripture is referred to as: law, testimony, precepts, commandments, fear, rules
 - 1). This passage is like looking at a beautiful diamond from different angles – each angle shines differently – each title gives us a different view into this wonderful book

Transition: Last week we looked at the first facet of this gem given as a gift from God

2. We saw: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul (v. 7)

- A. God has given us a comprehensive set of instructions designed to save the soul

And then bring growth to the soul it saves

- B. We saw the Word does that in salvation and then sanctification (growing in Christlikeness)
 - 1). If you missed that the CD is on the back table – you can also download it from our website
 - a). We discussed in detail how it is necessary in evangelism

Transition: This week we'll look at a couple more

I. THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD

Ps 19:7 (ESV) ...the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

1. Testimony looks at the Word as a divine witness

- A. We call a witness to the stand in court and they testify to the facts that are true
- B. Here is God's testimony about Himself: Who He is, what His will is and what He will do

Transition: But the problem with man's testimony – they lie – it can be filled with error

- A. But the testimony of the Lord is sure

2. The testimony of the Lord is sure

- A. Sure (Heb. Aw-man) = confirmed, reliable, worthy to be followed
 - 1). The truths of this book have been *confirmed*. Tested! These truths work!
 - a). I stand before you today 35+ years of testing this book and its promises
I can testify that this book works – this is truth – that leads to life, joy and satisfaction
 - 2). Every believer who has submitted themselves to these words
Will confirm they are reliable and worthy to be followed

Thought: Every man and woman follows something – some philosophy - mindset

- A. It may be a materialistic philosophy – a humanistic mindset
 - 1). It may be a set of values that leads to power, influence, success
- B. These in the end will eventually fail you – they are built on crumbling sand
 - 1). They promise success that cannot bring lasting joy and satisfaction – contentment and rest
 - 2). But God's word and the truth it contains cannot and will not fail you
 - a). It will always do exactly what it says it will do
And what it says it will do is what you want – His joy given to you – His peace
 - 1a). Don't you feel so rich? Because you have this book that leads you to God!

Transition: The next point is one of the reasons this book and its truth will work in your life

- A. It's because of what it does for you

3. Making wise the simple

- A. "Simple" is an interesting word – it is the root word for an "open door"
 - 1). So we could say: The simple person is one who has the door of their mind open

Objection: But isn't having an open mind good?

- A. Not if you don't have the wisdom to know what to allow in and what to keep out
 - 1). The world is in such terrible shape because people allow everything into their mind
 - a). One ungodly lie after another is embraced – result – society is spinning out of control
- B. The tragic thing is we see the same thing in the church
 - 1). I'm amazed at the lies Christians believe – that lead them to sin they should never be toying with
 - a). So many claiming to believe are living lives that are indistinguishable from the world
 - b). Then wonder why they live outside of God's blessings
"Christianity's failed me" – Maybe you've never really tried Christianity on God's terms

- C. Turn to Psalm 1 – first study we had here – here God says who the blessed man will be
TURN: Ps 1:1 (ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked...
- 1). He knows what to close the door of his mind too!
 - a). He is not going to be influenced by ungodly counsel
 - 2). But how does he know what counsel to reject and what counsel to embrace?
Ps 1:2 (ESV) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
 - a). As he inputs the word he gains wisdom – what to allow in – what to keep out
 - 1a). He learns to keep out the lies that would harm him spiritually
 - 2a). He embraces those truths that are spiritually beneficial
 - 3a). The result – He lives the kind of life that God can bless
- Transition:** So the scriptures make the simple wise by showing what to reject and what to embrace
- A. As they do this the simple move from that open door policy to live wisely
- 4. Wisdom defined: (Sophos) = skill in the art of living**
- A. Makes sense doesn't it? This person is keeping out destructive thoughts – lies – ungodly counsel
- 1). He is filling his mind with God given truth that is meant to bring true life
- B. AND as he learns to apply those truths correctly – He is growing in the art of living
- 1). The art of living how he was created to live
 - 2). He starts experiencing what Jesus meant when He said
Jn 10:10 (ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
 - a). As you draw near to Him and as your life lines up with His truth
You start to experience this abundant life He came to bring you
- C. God's blessings flow into the lives of those who have faith in Jesus Christ
And whose lives are lived according to His word
- Thought:** How many believer's neglect this incredible gift from God!
- A. Then wonder why there is no blessing in their life – no joy!
John Calvin: Unless God's Word illumine the way, the whole life of men is wrapped in darkness and mist, so that they cannot but miserably stray.
- 1). You don't stray towards blessing but away
- Transition:** So we have seen so far – including last week
- A. God word is able to convert the soul and bring growth to the soul it converts
- B. Now God's word is able to give wisdom to those who read it – so they live life skillfully
- 1). Live life that brings glory to God and a life that God can bless
- C. Next one is so important

II. THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD

Ps 19:8 (ESV) the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart...

1. Some commentators translate precepts as doctrine

- A. I want to teach it from that angle because this is so important – again I want you to know who we are
- 1). We believe that doctrine is essential for the church
- B. I understand that doctrine has become a dirty word – the “D” word! – so let's try to clear that up

2. Doctrine defined

- A. Simply means = a set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true
- 1). The body of principles in a system of belief

Point: So doctrines are simply that set of beliefs we need to believe to be Christians

A. It's that body of beliefs that make us different from all other religions

Thought: I have heard so many times –

I don't care about doctrine I'm more practical – I just want to love people and serve Jesus

A. But you must see that doctrine is the most practical thing there is

Examples of the Necessity of Doctrine

A. You want to love others – its doctrine that tells us how to love

You can love in a way does more harm than good – loving in a way that enables destructive behavior

1). Love is more than a warm fuzzy feeling – there's truth behind it – we're called to intelligent love

Php 1:9 (ESV) And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, *with knowledge and all discernment,*

a). I need doctrine to know how to love in a way that accomplishes God's purposes

B. You want to serve Jesus – sure you're serving the right one?

1). End times will be a time of many false Jesus arising on the scene

a). Able to do signs and wonders meant to deceive

Thought: Here's the problem when we don't have doctrine

1). We are left to our own imagination – what Jesus is like

a). We even visualize what He looks like - paint pictures of Him

I don't know why He always ends up a handsome white man – beautiful flowing hair

b). He was a Jew and scripture says He was not handsome

Is 53:2 (ESV) ... he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

1a). He looked ordinary – not like Brad Pitt

2). We reduce Him when we paint pictures of Him – that is not what He is like

a). Want to get closer – more scriptural – here's the picture you need

1a). The Jesus you need to know now is the Jesus in glory!

No more weaknesses – no more frailties – no more man spitting on Him!

2a). So get a picture frame – then put the brightest light bulb in it

That blinds you so you cannot look at it – like staring at the sun

The preview of Jesus: Mt 17:1–2 (ESV) And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ⁽²⁾ And he was transfigured before them, *and his face shone like the sun,* and his clothes became white as light.

3a). Somehow make the majesty of all this so great you fall before it as dead

The experience of John when he saw Jesus: Rev 1:12-17 (NIV) ...when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, (13) and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. (14) His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. (15) His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. (16) In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (17) When I saw him, *I fell at his feet as though dead.* Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

Point: That is our Lord in glory! That is who He is clothed in majesty

1). So majestic – so glorious we can't even bear to look upon Him now

We need our bodies upgraded just to be in this one's presence

- a). Now that Christ can help me in my troubles
- 2). This Christ of the paintings – this Christ of my imaginations is not big enough
- a). I need doctrine to tell me who He really is!
- b). The Christ of Scripture will thrill you – amaze you – capture your affections
- 1a). The Christ we produce in our imaginations is nothing like Him – much to small
- C. What about the Gospel? The primary message of the church
- 1). How can we tell we are even preaching the correct message?
A lot of messages out there called Gospel – that aren't even close
- 2). Here is an example. Answers to the question. “What is the Gospel?”
- From a well-known Christian artist in an interview:** What a great question. I guess I'd probably . . . *my instinct* is to say that it's Jesus coming, living, dying, and being resurrected and his inaugurating the already and the not yet of all things being restored to himself . . . and that happening by way of himself . . . the being made right of all things . . . that process both beginning and being a reality in the lives and hearts of believers and yet a day coming when it will be more fully realized. But the good news, the gospel, the speaking of the good news, I would say is the news of his kingdom coming, the inaugurating of his kingdom coming . . . *that's my instinct.*
- a). Need more than instinct – we need truth that is accurate for something so important
Instincts can be wrong and eternity hangs on this message
- Another:** The good news is, (**the gospel is**) God wants to show you his incredible favor. He wants to fill your life with “new wine,” but are you willing to get rid of your old wineskins? Will you start thinking bigger? Will you enlarge your vision and get rid of those old negative mind-sets that hold you back?
- Another:** Good news! God is becoming King and he is doing it through Jesus! And therefore, phew!, God's justice, God's peace, God's world is going to be renewed. And in the middle of that, of course, it's good news for you and me. But that's the derivative from, or the corollary of the good news which is a message about Jesus that has a second-order effect on me and you and us. But the gospel is not itself about . . . *you are this sort of a person and this can happen to you.* That's the result of the gospel rather than the gospel itself. . . . Salvation is the result of the gospel, not the center of the gospel itself. (uh.....what?)
- 3). None of those will save a person – that is the Gospel defined by man's imagination
- a). We need the Gospel defined by Scripture
- b). We need doctrine – that set of beliefs that are in the Bible and come from God Himself
- D. We can go down the list – Who God is. What He's like. How we are to behave. What is the church.
- 1). We will get all those wrong if we don't go to the Bible to form our thoughts
- Is 55:8–9 (ESV)** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁽⁹⁾ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- a). Left on our own we don't think like God thinks – we get it all wrong
So we must go to the Bible to form our beliefs – we need doctrine

Transition: Let me give you one last example

- A. Went street witnessing at the Spectrum Friday night – first to a Catholic man – then a Muslim couple
- 1). Both said the same thing – “I hope when I stand before God – I've been good enough”
- B. How do you answer that? You need doctrine not just your own opinion
- 1). Doctrine answers that – you won't be good enough! Nobody is good enough
- a). To get into heaven on your own you need to keep God's law – you haven't!
Love the Lord your God with ALL.... And neighbor as self
- b). Romans 2 says you'll stand before God and the law will be used – and it will silence you
- 2). You need to understand who God is (doctrine) – He is loving but He is also holy and just
- a). He can't overlook sin – not one – He can't lie – wages of sin is death

- b). Your sin must be judged either on you or on Jesus at the cross
- 4). Here is why I know (not hope) that I'll be OK – Justification by Faith – substitution = Doctrine
 - a). My trial already took place on a bloody Roman cross 2000 years ago
Where Jesus Christ exhausted God's wrath against me
 - 1a). God put my sin upon Jesus (imputation)
and Jesus exhausted the wrath of God I deserved (Substitution - Propitiation)
 - 2a). Therefore God has nothing against me – my sins have been paid for
 - 3a). He now views me through Christ's performance not mine
I could never be good enough – but He was and I trust in His goodness
 - b). The Muslim girl said "Well then you can do anything – sin in any way you want"
"No, let me tell you what that does. When I see what God has done for me by grace. When I see that He is no longer angry with me because Jesus exhausted that anger I deserved for every one of my sins. I don't sin more. I sin less because I fall in love with a God like that!"

Transition: I love doctrine – to me it is the most practical thing in the world.

A. This is why God is serious about what the Pastor is to be serious about

3. The command to the Pastor

1 Tim 4:13 (NKJV) Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to *doctrine*.

1 Tim 5:17 (NKJV) Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and *doctrine*.

Titus 1:7-9 (NKJV) For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, (8) but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, (9) holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by *sound doctrine*, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Titus 2:1 (NKJV) But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

A. So important especially in a time like we see today

2 Tim 4:3-4 (NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure *sound doctrine*, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

- 1). Would you say we are living in that day?
- 2). False teachers are rampant – the TV is filled with them
 - a). All saying what people want to hear rather than what God wants them to teach
Why? They want to gain a following – they are fleecing the sheep – getting rich
- 3). But notice what Paul says and doesn't say
NOT - Because people don't want doctrinal teaching Timothy then don't teach doctrinally
 - a). Give them what they want – pander to their base desires
Tell them I will fulfill all their dreams and I won't demand anything from them!
- 4). I love this! Here is the command to every Pastor – how we are to respond
2 Tim 4:2 (NKJV) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
 - a). Why? V. 3 for there is coming a time when they won't endure sound doctrine
So here's what I want you to do – Preach sound doctrine – Preach accurately
 - b). Don't give the people what they want – give them what they need
They need the Scriptures accurately explained so they can apply them correctly
 - c). They need to see what the scriptures say about sin – so they'll flee to my way of rescue

Thought: Again just letting you know who we are as a church

A. Including who I believe I am supposed to be as the teaching Pastor here

Great verse for the Pastor: 1 Tim 4:16 (NIV) *Watch your life and doctrine closely.* Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- 1). Watch your life AND your doctrine
 - a). **Life:** A Pastor living in sin can have proper doctrine – but his hypocrisy overshadows the truth
 - 1a). People will not be able to receive anything from him – even if it is truth that can save
 - b). **Doctrine:** The life can look OK – But if the truth is wrong – again no salvation
- 2). **Proper balance:** Preach sound saving truth and live out a godly lifestyle
 - a). God can use that person as an instrument in the salvation of others
- C. Listen! You want a church and a Pastor that will teach you doctrine!

Transition: We're out of time so I can just mention the last one

4. **The result of doctrine understood and applied**

Ps 19:8 (ESV) the precepts of the LORD are right, *rejoicing the heart...*

- A. These truths understood and applied are designed to bring joy into the heart. Amen!
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CONCLUSION

1. **We add two more facets to this beautiful gem of scripture**

- A. The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple
The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart
 - 1). What a book – what a gift