

**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; <sup>(8)</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>(9)</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

## 1. Going to finish up our look at the sufficiency of the Scripture

- A. We've seen where this church stands on the Word of God
    - 1). We believe it is authored by God = inerrant – without error
    - 2). We believe every word is accurate and a trustworthy guide for life
  - B. We saw the first characteristic of Scripture - v. 7 Scripture is “perfect, reviving the soul”
    - 1). Perfect = whole, complete, comprehensive, sufficient
    - 2). This book contains everything needed for salvation and sanctification – nothing missing
  - C. Second Characteristic of Scripture – v. 7 “the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple”
    - 1). This is God's testimony about Himself – about life – about sin – about salvation...
      - a). This is truth that can be trusted – solid – accurate - unchanging
    - 2). It is truth that makes us wise = the art of living
      - a). If you give yourself to this book – it will give you skill to live life well
  - D. Third characteristic of scripture. V. 8 “The precepts of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart”
    - 1). Saw how some translate that word “precept” as “doctrine”
      - a). We looked at how important doctrine is in the church
    - 2). The results of these precepts when believed bring joy to the one who believes and applies them
- Transition:** If you need to catch up they are all posted on our website with the notes I use – CD's in back
- A. That brings us to the end of v. 8 and the fourth characteristic of Scripture

## I. SCRIPTURE IS PURE AND ENLIGHTENING

**Ps 19:8b (ESV)** ...the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

### 1. We see God's word is given to us as commandments – not suggestions

- A. This stresses that the reader is expected to read AND obey
 

**Point:** Scriptures benefits come to us ONLY as we put them into practice – governing our life
- A. To read only with no determination to conform our life to what we read is very dangerous
 

**Jas 1:22 (ESV)** ...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- A. To only read the Bible without obeying its commands is a sure way to self-deception
  - 1). You can think your right with God – you're spiritual - but you've only tricked yourself
  - 2). Churches are filled with the lost – sitting under the sound of the Word with unbowed hearts
- B. James continues on to show what kind of hearer/reader will be blessed
 

**Jas 1:25 (ESV)** But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, *being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts*, he will be *blessed* in his doing.

**Transition:** So this book is a book filled with commandments our Lord expects us to obey

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## The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes

### 1. The word “pure” can be translated “Clear” or “Lucid”

- A. Despite what some teachers do to it every Sunday – God's Word isn't mystical, confusing, puzzling

### 2. It is meant to “enlighten the eyes”

- A. It brings understanding where there is ignorance – order where there is confusion  
Light where there is spiritual and moral darkness

**Point:** These commands clearly – accurately show us how we are to live

- A. It is a blessing because they take away the confusion of living life on our own – educated guesses  
**Ps 119:105 (ESV)** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
  - 1). How great is it to have this sure guide to direct our lives – help us with decisions
  - 2). These commands that line our life up with God’s will – so we live lives He can bless
- B. When we obey these commands we will never end up being disappointed!
  - 1). God came to give you abundant life – His commands lead you into THAT kind of living

**Transition:** Let’s move on to the 5<sup>th</sup> characteristic of scripture

## II. SCRIPTURE IS CLEAN ENDURING FOREVER

**Ps 19:9 (ESV)** the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever...

### 1. The fifth great characteristic of Scripture it stirs us to fear the Lord

**Dt 4:10 (ESV)** ... the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them *hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth*, and that they may teach their children so.’

- A. This is not a trembling, cringing type of fear – this is a reverence shown to God
- B. This happens as we read His Word – see who He is – His holiness, power, majesty, sovereignty
  - 1). As you linger over the Scriptures that tell you about Him!
    - a). That causes your heart to be filled with this awe, reverence, and a healthy fear

**Thought:** We seem to be afraid to talk about fearing God – but we should – because it’s so healthy

### 2. Remember when you were growing up – or your kids

- A. It was good and proper to have a healthy respect and fear of dad
  - 1). When mom said “Wait until your father gets home and hears about this”
    - a). That was meant to create some distress – to cause you to think about your actions and that wasn’t a bad thing
- B. Because a good father wasn’t afraid to apply the board of education to the seat of learning
  - 1). That child grew up understanding there were repercussions for inappropriate actions
  - 2). That was part of their training – part of growing up
    - a). They were being taught to respect authority – which helped them respect God’s authority
  - 3). A good father never disciplined out of anger but always love – for the child’s good

### 3. God disciplines us because He loves us

**Turn: Heb 12:5-7 (NIV)** And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, (6) because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." (7) Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

**Heb 12:11** No discipline seems pleasant at the time, *but painful. (But watch what it does)* Later on, however, *it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

- A. Does this work? Ask King David – listen to his words  
**Ps 119:67 (ESV)** Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.
  - 1). David went through a year of extreme discipline over his sin with Bathsheba
    - a). Now when he thinks of sin – he thinks – “No thanks. It’s not worth it. Discipline hurts”
  - 2). He had a healthy fear of God that kept him from embracing sin that would destroy his life  
**What Solomon said: Pr 16:6 (ESV)** By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, *and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.*
    - a). This is a healthy fear of Fatherly consequences that makes us think twice about sinning

**Thought:** All of this is why a church must teach the full counsel of God

- A. I fear we are not teaching the fear of the Lord any longer – that there are consequences for sin

- 1). We are teaching Bible lite – God lite – and enabling people to embrace sin easily
- 2). Result - many think obedience is an option and disobedience has little consequence – Wrong!

**Transition:** This is how David concludes this great verse

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### The fear of the Lord is clean (pure), enduring forever

#### 1. What we've been saying – the Scriptures produce this healthy reverence and fear

- A. That compels us to live a life of obedience to God's commands – to walk in holiness
- B. This fear of the Lord is clean and assists the believer in living a clean life before the Lord

#### 2. It endures forever

- A. This healthy respect and reverence will never end – though it will change
  - 1). We won't be concerned about discipline in glory – we will never sin again!
  - 2). But certainly the reverential part of this will remain and increase – as we see Him in glory

### Summary

**George MacDonald's summary of this section:** In his eulogy of God's Word, David describes it not only as the law of the LORD but also as the testimony of the LORD, the statutes of the LORD, the commandment of the LORD, the fear of the LORD, and the judgments of the LORD. The psalmist attributes eight excellent qualities to the Word of God; it is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, enduring, true, and righteous. Then he lists five of its wonderful ministries: it converts the soul, makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, and warns the servant of God.

**Transition:** Now in light of all that the Word does – look at David's response – the correct response

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## III. OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**Ps 19:10–14 (ESV)** More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. <sup>(11)</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>(12)</sup> Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. <sup>(13)</sup> Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. <sup>(14)</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

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### More to be desired are they (The scriptures) than gold, even much fine gold

#### 1. Desired more than gold? Yes! Because of what it does

- A. Gold can't do for you what this book does

**Thomas Brooks:** The Word of the Lord is a light to guide you, a counsellor to counsel you, a comforter to comfort you, a staff to support you, a sword to defend you, and a physician to cure you. The Word is a mine to enrich you, a robe to clothe you, and a crown to crown you.

- 1). So David not only says he'd rather have God's word than gold – but more than MUCH fine gold

- B. What a great place to be with the world's riches – where the things of God are your true treasure

- 1). Money is necessary – nice to have some - the bible never denies that

- a). It warns that we must be careful though – it can grip our heart and destroy us

**1 Tim 6:9-10 (NIV)** People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. *Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

- 2). Money can turn into an idol so easily – our heart can so quickly fall in love with the stuff

**But listen to the danger. What a warning: Mat 6:24 (NIV)** "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

**Jesus remedy: Mat 6:33 (NIV)** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- a). One of the benefits of tithing – it loosens our grip on money – keeps it's power at bay
- J. C. Ryle:** Money, in truth, is one of the most unsatisfying of possessions. It takes away some cares, no doubt; but it brings with it quite as many cares as it takes away. There is the trouble in the getting of it. There is anxiety in the keeping of it. There are temptations in the use of it. There is guilt in the abuse of it. There is sorrow in the losing of it. There is perplexity in the disposing of it.

**Transition:** So money is not evil in itself – but it must be handled carefully – we must guard our heart

- A. God must be first in our life in all things or those things can destroy us spiritually

## Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb

### 1. The world offers some sweet things

- A. Some of the things money can buy does bring pleasure into our life aren't sinful
- 1). To be able to take a nice vacation – to buy your own home – a car that is reliable – a nice meal
- B. But again, David had the right balance – He enjoyed the pleasures of being king
- 1). But his heart was attracted more to the things of God
- a). He desired the Word more than gold – and more than the pleasures of the world
- 2). ***This kept his heart in a place he could enjoy those things without being ruined by them***

**Thought:** I want to try and drive this home – important here in OC where we have so much

- A. It's necessary to see what God says on a regular basis – so we loosen our grip on these things
- 1). So that we can enjoy what God has given without them becoming idols
- B. Remember the parable Jesus told of the 4 soils
- 1). The farmer goes out sowing seed  
Farmer = Jesus. Seed = Word of God. Soil the seed is sown into is = heart
- 2). 3 out of the 4 soils is bad – one is good
- a). Notice what is says about the third soil – seed falling on thorny ground  
**Lk 8:14 (ESV)** And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are *choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life*, and their fruit does not mature.  
**Mark 4:19 (NLT)** but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life, the lure of wealth, *and the desire (KJV lusts) for nice things*, so no crop is produced.
- 3). The warning: Cares, riches, pleasures of this life are like weeds in a garden
- a). If you give your heart to them they will choke out the effectiveness of the Word  
And you will remain immature – there will be no fruit in your life
- 4). If you chase this – like a carrot on a stick – it will always be out in front of you
- a). Here's the danger –if you start following that carrot it moves you away from God
- b). Those desires will choke out your desire for God's Word – eventually your desire for Him
- 1a). If you don't correct it – Scripture warns us - eventually it will ruin you spiritually

**Thought:** Wow! I don't like that! How do I keep myself from that?

- A. David tells us how to keep these things that can be a blessing that can be sweet – money and honey
- 1). From so gripping our heart they become idols that draw us away from God
- 2). So that we can enjoy them without them mastering us

## GUARDING OUR HEARTS FROM BEING SIDE-TRACKED BY THE WORLD

### 1. Stay in the Word – it can protect your heart

**Ps 19:11 (ESV)** Moreover, *by them (the scripture) is your servant warned* (about these dangers. Context); in keeping them there is great reward.

- A. As you read the Word – you are constantly being warned about the dangers of sin
  - 1). Regularly being reminded of the necessity of guarding your heart against these idols
- B. We are repeatedly being taught about the need to remain in the Word and in prayer to stay strong
 

**The Word: 1 Jn 2:14 (ESV)** ... I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

**Prayer: Mt 26:41 (ESV)** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

### DAVID POINTS OUT THE BLESSING OF LIVING LIKE THIS

**Ps 19:11 (ESV)** Moreover, by them is your servant warned; *in keeping them there is great reward.*

- A. As our heart is warned and guarded from sinful things that can destroy us.
  - 1). We live a life God can bless now – rather than be constantly disciplining
    - a). We live a life that handles the money and the honey properly - godly
  - 2). You see some – they don’t read their Bible – or pray – they live outside of God’s will
 

Think “Aren’t you tired of always having to be disciplined. When will it change you?”
- B. So scripture – read – understood and applied
  - 1). Will lead you into a life you can bless now will reward later in eternity

**Transition:** So the Scripture will warn me and correct me – so stay in the Scriptures

- A. Notice in v. 12 – a great benefit of being in the Word
  - 1). Always keep in mind the context – here David is talking about the blessings of the Word

## 2. Stay in the Word: It can reveal sins at their beginning

**Ps 19:12 (ESV)** Who can discern his errors?

- A. There may be sins lurking in our hearts that we have no awareness of
 

Perhaps they are sins that are just beginning to be fashioned - sins in their infancy
- B. We need help to see those sins at that young stage
 

So they can be pulled out before they can take root

  - 1). But David says “Who can know his errors” – who can discern those young buds of sin
 

He tells us who in Psalm 139. There is one who has that knowledge and can help

**Ps 139:23–24 (ESV)** Search me, O God, *and know my heart!* Try me and know my thoughts! <sup>(24)</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
  - 2). I think David is saying “I don’t trust my heart” – I don’t know if there is evil lurking there
 

So “Help me Lord. Search me and find all those things that can become problems down the line and expose them so I can deal with them now.”
  - 3). In our context here – the beginnings of a lust for money and things
 

The beginnings of idolatry in the heart

**Question:** How would God do that? What would He use? The Word

Heb 4:12 (NLT) For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are.

- A. It can detect sins while they are still in the innermost thoughts, attitudes and desires
  - 1). Before they take root and become actions
- B. Again here is where you want to discover them – these early stages
  - 1). If you don’t get them here – sinful thoughts eventually become sinful actions/habits
  - 2). Those little seedlings of sin can become rooted and be a real problem to remove

**Transition:** So stay in the Word – and read it with dependence upon God the Spirit to illuminate it

And to use it to point out the beginnings of sin before they are big enough for you to spot them

### 3. Then confess your sins when God points them out

**Ps 19:12 (ESV)** Who can discern his errors? *Declare me innocent from hidden faults.*

**Psa 19:12 (NKJV)** Who can understand his errors? *Cleanse me from secret faults.*

A. This book reveals sin – then we must confess them so our fellowship is not broken with God

**1 John 1:6-9 (NIV)** If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (8) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **(Now here is the cleansing)** (9) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1). Sin breaks fellowship with God the Father – nor relationship but fellowship  
What restores that fellowship so we enjoy our relationship is repentance and confession

2). One writer said: *Confession of sin puts the soul under the blessing of God.*

William James: “For him who confesses, shams are over and realities have begun.”

a). Confession is agreeing with God – so you stop playing games with sin – justifying  
“You’re right God this is sin. I confess I have offended you.”

**Internal summary:** So what have we seen about David and the Word

A. He desires the Word because it warns him about what to avoid – what not to neglect

1). We need these constant reminders to keep our heart in check – our lives governed

B. He’s prayed that God would help him with hidden sins – find them Lord while they’re young

1). We’ve seen the Lord usually uses the Word to reveal these sins to us

C. We saw when they are revealed – part of taking care of them properly – is confession

**Transition: Now** In v 13 we see one more kind of sin we must deal with through the Word

A. He has spoken about hidden sins now he turns to willful sins

1). Context the Word still but in this section we also see it mingled with prayer

### 4. Stay in God’s Word: To gain power over besetting sins

**Ps 19:13 (ESV)** Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me!

A. These are those sins we know about – but have a problem with – that can have dominion (rule) over us

B. The context here is the Word – we need that – and we need prayer

1). Just as David mingled the Word with prayer – in revealing those hidden sins

2). We have the same thing here – word and prayer

**Question:** How does the Word give us victory over these besetting sins – let me show you one way

A. By showing us Jesus Christ – showing us His beauty – majesty – love – grace

1). These truths when they grip the heart have an expulsive power towards sin  
They so thrill us with Him that sin starts to naturally lose its attraction

**Ps 119:11 (ESV)** I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

**Listen to this one: Ps 119:104 (ESV)** Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

a). I have seen the beauty of your truth therefore it has bred a hatred of sin in my heart

b). I have enjoyed true treasure so the costume jewelry of the world just looks phony

**Thought:** Look at how David puts it here – the result of Bible input and prayerful dependence

**Ps 19:13 (ESV)** Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me!

*Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.*

A. This is not being perfect – but it is a life that is characterized by godliness rather than sin

1). By victory rather than defeat – by God’s presence rather than feeling alone in this fight

B. This is what that one-two punch of the Word and prayer will do – it’s deadly to sin!

1). The truth found in the Word is that kindling we place in our heart

Then prayer ignites that truth into passion

- 2). Neglect these and you will not have the power to overcome sin
  - a). Sin will have dominion over you – it will rule and reign and steal all your joy

**Transition:** In the last verse we have David's wonderful desire – may ours mirror this

- A. I think this is the desire that is birthed in the heart of a person given over to God
  - 1). Those who delight in His Word and spend time with Him in prayer
    - a). These holy desires rise to the top of our priority list

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### David's holy desire

**Ps 19:14 (ESV)** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

#### 1. Lord let my words and even my thoughts be acceptable to you

- A. This is the desire of a person who wants to bring God glory at every level
  - 1). Brothers and sisters this is the way we want to live  
This is a life that will experience God and His blessings – He is true treasure indeed

**Point:** Want your words and your thoughts (meditations) to be pleasing to God

- A. That is a fruit – a result of a life given over to God through the disciplines of the Word and prayer
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## CONCLUSION

#### 1. This finishes our look at God's Word – what a book

- A. What we see here is the path to a healthy Christian life
  - 1). Everything we need to live that life God can use for His glory and bless is found here
  - 2). All the promises we need to bring rest into our life are contained in this book
  - 3). All the truth about God that reveals His love, beauty, majesty and grace are here
    - a). This book is God's testimony about Himself – meant to thrill our heart
    - b). Read your Bible to find Him in it – until you're so thrilled with Him world loses its luster
  - 4). Here is a sure guide for life – a roadmap that will never lead you astray
    - a). It leads you to Him – to green pastures – to rest and contentment

#### 2. Brothers and sisters be people of the Book

- A. Read it to master it – and read it to have it master you