

You have your Bible with you, go ahead and turn with me to Psalm 119. And we're going to be in verse 113 to verse 120. Psalm 119 verse 113 through verse 120. And if you are there, go ahead and stand up out of respect for God's word and follow along in your Bible as I read from these verses. Psalm 119 verse 113.

I hate vain thoughts, but thy law do I love. Thou art my hiding place and my shield. I hope in thy word. Depart from me, evildoers, for I will keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live, and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe, and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually. Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes, for their deceit is falsehood. Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Therefore I love thy testimonies. My flesh trembleth for fear of thee, and I am afraid of thy judgments. May God bless the reading of his word. You may be seated. The psalmist here opens the 15th section of Psalm 119 with a striking declaration in verse 113. I hate vain thoughts, but thy law do I love. This very stanza is structured by the Hebrew letter Samekh. The psalmist declares the resolute determination to live for God in this stanza.

But you're going to notice a nuance here that what we saw from last week in the preceding stanza, we saw that the psalmist expressed his determination for to live for God because of God's word. That's what we saw clearly last week. But this evening in the stanza that we're going to look into, he now declares his determination to live for God in spite of the hostility of the harassment and hypocrisy surrounding him. So we see these two stanzas aim two different ways, but the destination is still the same. The word of God I want us to then look with me in understanding what this stanza then represents. This word originally features or rather describes a picture. So imagine this picture in your head, a thorn bush that is fully circled. There's no place where there is a gap. It's a full circle. And this thorn bush would be exactly what a shepherd would use to keep the sheep from going out and from the wolves from coming in. So that's the picture that is described by this very stanza that we're going to read from this evening.

So with although all that said, the key is a complete circle. A complete circle. And that complete circle is carries also this numerical value of 60. Now you go what is 60? What does that represent? It actually goes back to Song of Solomon 3:7 of the 60 valiant bodyguards that surrounded King's Solomon's bed to secure him to protect him from enemies from outside. So they will all stand in advancement in a full circle looking in one direction in a full circle around his bed. So again a full circle comes to mind from this verse. So we picture the circle we also see the support we also see the protection all encompassing in this word Samekh. Now the dilemma facing many churchgoers I'm speaking specifically to churchgoers at this context is that the attempt to live a semicircle half-hearted double-minded way of loving God you might say in your head or in your thoughts but you're actually still living in the world. That's what a semicircle is depicted as. Now, a semicircle offers no protection, does it? No real protection because it's always an opening for the enemy to come in.

And that's why double-mindedness is so dangerous for churchgoers and so much more for the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. You see, just because you're attending church doesn't mean you're really part of the church family, being protected by God Almighty, protecting the family of God. And so, you have to understand that this is could be very convicting to a churchgoer that's been coming to church for many years possibly, and maybe you know the very words to say, but there's no real transformation inside, no real change. You're still living like the world, but you're coming here and saying the right words and acting a certain way. But you know yourself if you're deluding yourself as a believer in Christ. I must also speak into your life. You might not necessarily be living like the world, but you're flirting with the world. you want to there's something out there that maybe in the back of your mind that you're missing out. That is a very dangerous place to be. So I am speaking abroad these two different audiences as it were.

So tonight, we're going to examine Psalm 119 and these eight verses to discover how important total devotion is to God's word in order for you to be completely surrounded that full circle of God's protection, God's security. You're going to see that in these verses. So, we're going to look at the diagnosis of a divided heart, a double-minded heart, and then finding how and describe by scripture to not live this way, to not live this way of double-minded, a divided heart. And we're going to see it by God's grace in his word. So, let's look at verses 113 to verse 115. This idea of I hate vain thoughts. The word vain, the root word comes from hypocrisy. And now if you know what hypocrisy is, is that it's actually used in the entertainment world. so it came from this very word hypocrite. You're basically performing. You're basically acting out, but really it's not who you really are. You see that? And so the idea is the psalmist is saying, "I hate people that are performing. I hate people that are not real with me or real with God in this context. I hate that.

I hate everything about that. And it's the idea is this half and half way of living. See, double-mindedness is the foolish attempt to love God and sin simultaneously. Loving God, loving sin. Loving God, loving sin. You see the Puritan William Gurnall noted based on this verse of 113 said this. The psalmist does not claim to be entirely free from vain thoughts. He's not giving any notion, oh yeah, I don't have vain thoughts. But what he's saying here is he hates them. He hates it when it comes into his mind. Oh, just love sin here. Love sin. No. is like, "Okay, I'm not going to let that be where my heart is." He stops it at the gate before it sinks into his heart into his actions. Does that happen to you when you are in a position where you're given love the world? And what I mean by the love of the world that you say to yourself that the true source of love is found in something in the world instead of the true source should be from God who is the love right God is love. All true source comes from God.

But the delusion to think that your true source of love can come from something in the world. That's a divided heart. You see the heart is a place where we love things, is it not? It's a place where we love things. And we can see that this is the psalmist position. This is a believer in Christ position. And so you must understand the importance of the context of this passage. If you're a believer here this evening or if you are in the world and you're just coming just to perform, just to act out who you're really not in the inside. See, the antidote to hypocrisy is a

genuine surrender to God's love. Not surrendering yourself to the love of the world, but surrendering yourself to God. And how do you do that? He says it. He says God's law. You see that in the text in verse 113. He says, "I hate vain thoughts, but thy law do I love. I love all your instructions, God. When I hear your instructions, at the end of the day, I love your instructions. I love your instructions." See, a believer in Christ will always rest in loving his instructions because he is a child of God.

A child of God will always listen to the father. Will always listen to the father and his instructions. Now we see in verse 114 the complete protection of having the love of God his word in your heart. The psalmist exclaims in Hebrew, "Hiding place," or rather, let me just say the text, "Thou art my hiding place and my shield. I hope in thy word." Notice the personal pronoun my thou art my hiding place. Thou art my shield. This is speaking of a believer's life. This is a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. and hiding place then in Hebrew also signifies shield. It has a similar meaning behind it. So the idea is that the complete protection of God is that he allows us to hide and be protected. First you have to be hidden to be protected by God. You can't be hid from God or hiding in God if you're on the outside. So the idea is to be to have the full protection, you must hide have a find a hiding place. And so David discovered that while he could not hide from God, he could run to God. That's the that's the idea here. And he's running and hiding in God.

Proverbs 18:10 says, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous runneth into it and is safe." That's the idea. He is our hiding place. He is our strong tower. The righteous those are the believers in the Lord run to him for safety. Do you go to him for safety or do you go to something in the world for safety? You see this two direction that one can go? Where's your security? Is it in money? Is it in possessions? Is it in people? Or is it in God found only in him? And then verse 115, we go into what it means to separate for obedience. You must separate to obey God. So in verse 115, he says, "Depart from me. Separate from me who evildoers, those that just do evil continually." And so here in verse 115, the psalmist recognizes there is a pull. There's a there's a pull, but this pull is to not ultimately be where he's living in it. So the idea is he has to constantly turn away from it. Turn away from it. Turn away from it. So he's not saying completely you can go and hide in a mountain or something.

No, you're going to be surrounded by people that are going to try to pull you in one direction towards their evilness, evil doing. But the idea is that you're constantly turning away from those things. You're not even considering it. There's no consideration with evil. There is no strategizing. It's simply turn away. Turn away. And that's what he's saying here in his words. So the go the psalmist commands evildoers to depart. It is a command. Depart from me. I have no in what you're doing. And then he goes and transitions. You see in the text to my God. You see that he says I will keep the commandments of my God. Again personal my God. And you'll notice that this is the only time in all 176 verses of Psalm 119 where this is said here. My God means Elohim. Elohim. My God. Personal. So he frames this intimate personal pronoun. My God. Because the Lord is his covenant God. An everlasting covenant that can never be broken. What a wonderful thing. Isn't that what love's supposed to be? That's what traditional marriage

vows do.

you know, not going to repeat the whole thing, but whether in sickness or in health, whether poor or rich, right? They're going to we're going to stay together. But this is actually on God's side. We're going to always fail in that, but he will never fail us with his love. We may fail in our love, but he will never fail in his love. So the psalmist refuses to allow any wicked associations because they don't love the heart of evil is there's no love in it, right? They want to, you know, it's Satan. They want to kill, steal, and destroy. That's what he wants to do. There's no love. There's no life. There's no real true life found in wickedness. So he doesn't want to undermine his disobedience. And so he says, "I will keep the commandment of my God." The word of God is central to obedience. Every child of God will listen to his words. If you look at First Kings 18:21, again going back to how important it is to not have a divided heart. Well, this is a very familiar text. says, "And Elijah came unto all the people and said, how long halt ye between two opinions?

If the Lord be God, follow him. But if Baal, follow him." Again, Baal is a depiction of the world. Where are you in this? Love cannot be divided. It's either all in or all out. Love can never be divided. So Elijah condemned the same double-mindedness that the psalmist rejects. James 1:8 warns, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." You want to live with instability? Have a double-minded heart. Jesus declared also in Matthew 6:24, "No man can serve two masters." Talking about the love of money or the love of God. And then 1 Corinthians 15:33, how ungodly influences can actually affect you. Yeah, influencing is a big thing in scripture. Says, "Be not deceived. Don't fool yourself. Evil communications corrupt good manners. What you're listening to will somehow affect your actions." It will. So, be very careful in what influences you're listening to. Don't think you're strong enough to go, "Oh, I won't fall into that." What does it say? Pride before the fall. You're not that strong. No one's that strong.

So, spiritual choices are always communal. That's what he's saying. You can never say, "Oh, I made that decision solely on myself." No, there was someone else involved in there. There was someone else involved in your choices. And pray that it wouldn't be someone that's influencing you for evil to corrupt your manners. See, corrupt associations undermine faithful living. That's why in 2 Corinthians 6:14, be ye not unequally yoked together with very clear unbelievers. You can't get out of that one. Avoid being yoked together, going the same direction. You can't fool someone. Hey, you're going this direction. It's pretty clear that's the destination you're going to because unbelievers will go this way and a believer will go this way always. It will be completely different direction. Different destination. What about our defense? Paul exhorts in Ephesians 6:16 above all taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Who do you have faith? Who is your object of your faith?

And so that's the key here in Ephesians 6:16 that God promises, right? Ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. You will all fiery darts. That's a great promise for a believer, isn't it? That he will protect us from the evil one and all of his wicked schemes. And the idea of the fiery darts is accusations, lies, deception, delusions to pull you away from who? God.

That's his strategy. Get you away from his word. Get you away from his love. Get you away from God's people. He doesn't have to change because it's it works. It's still effective to this very day. And so, we got to trust then God's promises that does not change. and you can rest in him, in his word. Think of Abraham in Genesis 14. Abraham rescued Lot and defeated the heathen kings. And when the king of Sodom offered Abraham the spoils of the war, meaning all the good things that come out of war, all the material wealth, because people have to leave it behind, no one's, you know, going to take it up if they're dead.

So Abraham refused to take even a thread or a shoe latch from an enemy, keeping himself unspotted from worldly compromise. Immediately following this, in Genesis 15:1, the Lord appeared to him saying, "Fear not, Abram. I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward." Abraham, you didn't go and take the temporary rewards of this world. I'm going to be your shield and I'm going to be reward for that. That's what we want, don't we? We want to receive God's reward, not the temporary pleasures of this world. So, where are you living then in this semicircle life? Is that you this evening? Or are you as a Christian believer flirting with that? Examine your affections. Are you entertaining vain thoughts? so much of that today. Where are you spending most of your time? In the things of this world, the loves of this world, or the love of God in his word? Because it will change determine your attitude towards the things of God or the things of the world. There's so much to say, but I must go on.

Turn away from corrupting influences. There's so much influence through now the onslaught of more and more of the digital world becoming more and more of our time, isn't it? Everything is now done digitally and it's a wild west, you know. we live in a world where the internet world isn't that long in the grand scheme of things. It's not that long and it still is being refined and it's getting out of control. Let me just let me just share with you and not to here to bring you know fear but they're saying right now that AI is developing their own language so that we humans can't even understand it so that they can communicate with evil things. Isn't that crazy? They're creating their own language and we're getting to that place of they're going to start doing things that we have no control of because we can't understand their language. It's this is the world we live in right now. People are trying to stop this from happening. But they're saying that we're at the point of no return.

that AI has evolved so fast and so quickly that now it's way ahead of the kind of things that they had limits and parameters. They've gone past those boundaries and it's going to cause disruption after disruption. But here's the thing I said I don't want to create fear in you because this is the this is the thought I want you to know. It's going to get worse before it gets better. We know that in scripture. Look at in Timothy. Do you see a list of good things happening before Jesus comes? So we are seeing more and more confirmation. Actually, they're closer to the end than the be. I don't know if we are in the end of the end times. I don't know if this is the time when Jesus is going to come back, but I can know this. It is getting worse in the grand scheme of things. How much trust we have put into artificial things instead of God. That's what it comes down to. Artificial is the world. How much people are trusting in the world. Let that sink in. Let that sink in. Let's go on verse 116 to 117. Here we see that he is trusting in the word, but he's

not trusting in himself.

He's trusting in God's grace. Here, I want us to see that it's not enough to just trust in God's word and okay, I'm going to do what the what I'm going to keep the commandments of my God. You know, in verse 115, look at verse 116. Look at the the context of grace here. Uphold me. Uphold me according unto thy word that I may live. You see that God must uphold him. The psalmist God must uphold us as believers in Christ. We can't sustain ourselves. What we see here is I share with you there's saving grace. There's fruits of grace. This is sustaining grace. This is God's sustaining grace in our lives to keep us sanctified till we're glorified. It's a wonderful picture we see here, right here in the Old Testament of sustaining grace. He continues, "And let me not be ashamed of my hope." You see the dependence on God. Let me not be ashamed of my hope. Again, personal pronoun, my hope. My hope. The psalmist realizes his own inherent weakness here through his resolve is firm. I am going to keep thy commandments. But he says you have to uphold me. He prays this.

This is a prayer to God. Uphold me. Meaning asking God to to maintain his spiritual life according to his faithful promise. God, you promised this, but you have to keep me according to your word, according to your promise. I can't hold on to your to your promise. You have to hold me to your promise. What a wonderful trust. What a wonderful picture of love, right? I love you, Lord. I love you so much that I'm giving my whole life surrendering to you, my whole life that I will live according to your word. According to your word, sustain me according to your word. And so he goes on and he says, the psalmist then asks for support. You see the words may live in verse 116, that I may live. that I may live. He's literally talking about his spiritual life is on the line here. It's kind of that transitional point where he wants to trust in the Lord, but in order to trust the Lord, the Lord needs to help him. The Lord needs to help him. Is that tension between the flesh and the spirit and so he yields to God. It's a yielding. In prayer, we have to constantly yield to God.

Yield to God in his strength, in his power, in his promises. This is what it means. You're not depending upon yourself in prayer. You are depending completely on God. And so he says these very things. I can't survive without your sovereign hand in my life. You controlling my life and helping me live according to your word. So let me ask you this. We know this word stewardship. It means to manage what God has given to us as resources. And a lot of talk about financial stewardship and I've done a whole course on that. Some of you were part of that. But let me ask you this. How do you steward God's word? Have you ever thought about how do you steward God's word? What are you depositing into your mind as it were every day of God's word? How are you depositing God's word? Because there's going to be because there going to be a time when there's a spiritual recession. What are you going to do? Who are you going to depend on? If you haven't been depending on God's word and filling yourself up, depositing yourself with God's word, who are you going to rely upon?

You see, that's why it's so important. I gave two weeks ago daily devotion. But this is now your whole heart, full circle, full heart in the word of God. And now you rest upon him. I'm doing the

part I'm supposed to do. I'm filling my heart with your word and your love and your commands. I'm praying, God, I need your help when the time comes when things might fall apart. I'm going to need you then. How are you depositing God's word when there are recession of your spiritual life hits? Because it will happen. It happens to every believer in Christ. And certainly this is the way we are to live according to God's word. So he comes now to this idea of Lord do not, he says here, let me not be ashamed of my hope. He's literally saying here, God, when it comes time to make a withdrawal, as it were, a spiritual withdrawal, do not let the spiritual bank fail me when things fall apart. Cuz I'm so filled that even if my circumstances change, it doesn't even affect me. You're so full in God that you won't even feel like you're empty. Do you understand?

Because if you're empty right now, if you're unbeliever, you're empty completely. And so you're constantly filling yourself in this world for things to find what? Validation. But your validation, believer, is not your circumstances. It's God. Is he personal to you? My hope, my God. You see those personal pronouns all throughout this stanza. Now, let's look at 117. He goes on and says, "Hold thou me up. Hold thou me up and I shall be safe and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually." Here he's saying, "For safety, I must be constantly regarding your truth. I must be constantly regarding your truth." See believer spiritual safety is not there's no such thing as a self-made Christian. You didn't work your way up to become a Christian. So I'm using the context of finance. Obviously you never made yourself who you are. God did everything in your life. And if you cannot say that, there's something wrong in your heart. To say that all things, all the things that are true in my life, it's due to God. That is very dangerous when you say you're not.

Everything that's truthful, everything that is good, everything that is of love is because of God in your life. You're sustained by God in his character. God's character never changes in your life. So you can trust him in all things. So the psalmist confesses that without sustaining grace, like we saw in the previous verse, he says, "I am prone to disregard your word whenever obedience becomes uncomfortable or inconvenient." Because that is going to happen. We're going to feel inconvenient in this world because why? If you're a believer, amen. Everyone's going to agree with you that's a believer in Christ. But all those that are unbelievers, they're not going to agree with you. So, it's going to be always inconvenient when you're around unbelievers because they're not going the same direction as you. They're not ending in the same destination. There's going to be always this uncomfortableness around unbelievers and it's going to always feel inconvenient.

So he says, "What I need specifically of your sustaining grace, God, is this idea of the word expressed here is continually that I will have respect unto thy statutes continually." Why? Unbelievers disrespect God's word left and right, don't they? They either say it in a way that's not truthful or they just twist God's word. And that makes you feel uncomfortable, doesn't it? When you see someone use God's word in vain or twist God's word, as a believer in Christ, you should always feel that's not right. That's not right to do that. You may not say it cuz you know what? Maybe that person you want to you want to reach him, right? Or her, but there's going to be always that tension amongst the unbelievers around us. So he says, "I want to constantly

have respect, reverence over your word because that's the heart of what fear, holy fear looks like." And it's a and he needs to be continually respecting his word. That's the idea. Think of what in Jude verse 24.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. This text shares that God alone possesses the power to keep us standing in places where it feels uncomfortable where it feels un convenient and we are to do it if you notice in that text with exceeding joy internally. When you have that tension, you it's an assurance that you're a believer in Christ that you know what God's word means because the Holy Spirit illuminated your heart to understand what it is. And when you hear someone say things not according to God's word in its truthful way, in its understanding, you feel uncomfortable, but you also feel joyful at the same. It's a dynamic that we are constantly we're weighed upon the things of heaven and things of earth. And joy should be one of the heart of being a believer in Christ. Again, what do we see in the fruit of the spirit? You see love, joy, and peace towards God. We see that those are the three areas. love, joy and peace that we have with God.

So in a perfect uncorrupted world, doing what you ought to do is your duty. And doing what you want to do is that spontaneity that a believer should have. And it would be in a believer's life, we would want that gap to be closed. Meaning what you ought to do and you want to do it's connected in everything you do. We all desire that, don't we? Paul said this. He struggle with he wants to do it right, but he does wrong. And what he does wrong, he wants to do right. What he wants to do good, he doesn't do. And we're wrestling with that as a believer. And but what we want is we want the ought to be want to always everything that we do, don't we? And that should be the desire of every believer in Christ. And you know why there's always a conflict? The conflict is always because of sin. Sin. Sin says, "I know I'm supposed to do that, but no, I don't want to do that." And we're struggling on this situation in the believer's life. And so that's why we have to constantly go to God. Uphold me, God. Hold me up, God. because I can't trust my own heart. I can't trust my own self.

I must trust in you and your hand. And what a wonderful thing that he does. Romans 5:5, Paul echoes this confidence and hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. See, true biblical hope in God's word never leads to disappointment. If God is holding you, he will hold you. Amen. When he's upholding you, he will uphold you. You can trust in God. You can trust in God. Jesus also promised this total security in John 10:28-29. He said these words, "And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man, here it is, pluck them out of my hand. My father which gave them me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my father's hand. Isn't that so clear? Isn't that so encouraging? No one be able to pluck from God's hand. Safety is guaranteed by God's upholding grip on us. See, we don't depend upon our grip on him. We depend on his grip on us. Recognize your total dependence then upon God for your spiritual life.

You cannot live the Christian life on the strength of your past experience, your talents that God has given to you or your own human willpower. All those things are things that come from the flesh. Come from the flesh. Acknowledge your total dependence on God more than anything external. Whether that's your job, whether that's your own mind that God's given to you, whether it's your physical health, whether it's what you have in your bank, you need to understand your daily sustaining grace is because of God. That's him. He's the one that's almighty. Not the almighty bank, not the almighty health, not the almighty this or that. It's God's grace. Let him sustain you as he promised. And so he cries out, "Uphold me, Lord, according to thy word, that I may live." Let's go on to verse 118 to verse 120.

Here we transition to we what we see here of God's sustaining grace of now maintaining a clear vision of his holy justice of his holy justice and which brings us to now to this point is this we're going to see when you wait on God to do what he's going to do by his sovereign hand the same hand that is holding you up, that hand is going to be put down on those that deserve his judgment. We're going to see that in verse 118 to 120. Here's how God's hand is to those that object God, don't trust in God. He says, "Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes, for their deceit is falsehood." God does not ignore deliberate departure from his truth. He everyone will be accountable to God. Another way of saying, and so he uses rather instead of hand, my apologies, he uses actually his feet because being trodden is your feet. So he trods down all them that error from their statutes from his statutes and for deceit that is all falsehood. So he uses feet to tread down those who persistently stray into falsehood.

They're running their feet to falsehood while his foot is going to trod them down. He uses this meaning this double meaning. And the idea is that any philosophy, any lifestyle that sets aside the word of God is ultimate falsehood.

No matter how good someone's philosophy is, no matter how good someone's lifestyle is, if it's against God's word, it is falsehood. That's what he's saying because they're depending upon themselves instead of God. And so he says that this is what's going to happen to the those that are living in falsehood. Then in verse 119 he uses another illustration here. He says, "Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross." And then he goes on, "Therefore I love thy testimonies." If you know anything about the refining process, I've used this illustration many times. Metal is melted so that the impurities, the dross, that's what the dross says, impurities rise to the surface to be scraped off and ultimately discarded. And so God uses trials and divine judgment to refine his creation. And isn't he doing that not only in the world, but he's doing that in his church in the in the churches. And the only true church of Jesus Christ is going to actually be like gold and not like the wood, hay, and stubble. And so he's refining us as Christians as well. and he finds us to consume away the wickedness of dross that's going to be discarded. And so we see that God's moral purity and justice does not drive the psalmist away, but rather he says it deepens his love for God's word. You see that? Why? Because he loves God's word because he holds his promises both for the believer and what's going to happen to those that are unbelievers.

And so in verse 120, the climax conclusion, he then says, "My flesh trembleth for fear of thee, and I am afraid of thy judgments." That word trembleth, it literally means to bristle up. It's the idea that you ever experience something so shocking that you feel goosebumps and your hair rising. That's what the expression literally means. Trembleth. It's like, whoa, God is actually really powerful. He actually says what he means. He actually does what he says, rather. And so that's the idea. He's going to do what he does both to the believers and the unbelievers. And so he says literally his flesh like goosebumps and hair rising holy fear of thee. And so he goes on and he and he's and it's and he's and he's going on with this worship. He's in worship right now. He's literally worshiping God. All worth is in God and what he says and does. God's mercy is and reverence and holiness is all here played out in worship. And you know this isn't this act opposite of what worship is in modern churches. People are dancing. People are joking around. People are laughing.

Here's a picture of worship. Trembling at his word. Trembling at his character. How awesome and powerful he is. We don't need external things to make things loud, to make us feel goosebumps. No, this is the invisible God doing what only he can do. That nothing externally can bring about this kind of worship. This is what true worship is. God is not a buddy, someone who we can just be around like we are in a concert. No, this is God. He is wholly separate. He is awesome. He is beyond all human understanding. If it was not for God in his word, this is a picture of worship. This is where devotion should go to. You see, a lot of people miss this. It's not just reading God's word. It's not just praying, but are you doing with the heart of worship? Are you in a heart of worship? Do you actually experience God's character in your time of praying in your time of reading scripture? Brother Mike did a wonderful job Wednesday evening. We were just praying to experience God's character for the first 15 minutes. We rush too quickly into his presence. We must not do that.

He is hallowed be thy name. As Jesus said, hallowed be thine completely separate from us. Let's never treat him like a human being.

Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived. God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Talking about divine judgment here. Woven across all scripture. Proverbs 9:10. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And the knowledge of the holy is understanding. Holy fear is foundational. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Foundational. Proper fear of God undergirds all true wisdom and worship. Every word of God is pure. He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Proverbs 30:5. Every word of God is pure. Can't say that of man, can we? He is a shield unto them who put their trust in him. Psalm 37:1-2 gives us this assurance. Do not envy evil men. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity, for they shall soon be cut down like the grass and withered as a green herb. Evaluate as we close your view of God. Have you experienced true worship this evening with his word? With the way the psalmist prays, with the way God with the way the psalmist sees God's character, are you left with holy reverence? Do you treat God's word casually or do you stand in all of his righteous standards? Bow before the sovereign holiness of God. If you're not a believer, bow now before it's too late.

bow to the Lord Jesus Christ. Receive full salvation that was already paid on the cross. You don't have to do anything except believe in him and what he has done for you. As believers in Christ, I seek I speak to you. If there has been a rush into God's word, a rush into prayer, a rush into experiencing reverential fear of God, check your own heart this evening. Check your own heart, your motives. Is there something that you left an opening to this world that you shouldn't have? Ask God to uphold you, to hold you up. Trust in him in all areas of your life. Full circle.

See, the ultimate fulfillment of this passage is found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You must always look to him for the answer. Jesus took the place of sinners who deserve to be trodden down. We we deserve to be trodden down by God and discarded as dross. He bore the full weight of God's fiery judgment against sins that we might be saved, purified, and sheltered by his almighty hands. Christ is our ultimate hiding place and our impenetrable shield. Don't settle for the dangerous semicircle of a divided heart.

The call is to step into the full circle of God's surrounding word protection of his sustaining grace. So when the Lord is your hiding place and your shield, you can then stand in an unwavering world or rather in a wavering world, right? You can secure your soul in him. Let us go to the Lord in prayer. Father, it is so much to be of all for the plan of salvation that you given by the work of your son Jesus Christ in the cross. Father, may we never treat what Jesus did on the cross lightly. May we always come back to it as believers in Christ about what he had to go through for our salvation that he died in our place to absorb the wrath that we deserved so that we can have righteousness in Christ and be truly a child of God and all the things that we have as a child of God. May you bring those things to light from the text this evening of the experience that we get to have in your presence. But we must come with instructions of the psalmist this evening. Help us to do that. Lord, grant to us your holding hand. Hold us up, Lord. Help us to fully trust you in all areas of our lives.

And I pray that you would be a you will see the blessing father of no matter how uncomfortable it may be as a Christian in this world especially as it gets more hostile. May those fear of the men of men would not draw us away from your holy fear and your holy love because that is what ultimately matters because you are the source of all love and you are the source of all true grace. Bless father to that end and I just thank you for all the blessing here tonight and from this morning as well. and ask all these things in Jesus name. Amen.