

**08/30/26 Faithful to God's Word
Psalm 19:7-14**

Welcome...

Each ministry year we have a theme for our church. This past year's theme was incredibly helpful: making Christ known in personal evangelism.

This year we decided on the theme of faithfulness. What is faithfulness?

Faithfulness is a character attribute of God. Jeremiah declared in Lamentations 3:22 that "the Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:24 "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass." In his great vision on Patmos in Revelation 19:11, John saw Christ seated on "a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True."

God's faithfulness means that God will always do what He has said and fulfill what He has promised. Numbers 23:19 reminds us, "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change his mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?"

God can be relied upon, and He will never prove unfaithful to those who trust what He has said. Indeed, the essence of true faith is taking God at His word and relying on Him to do as He has promised.

We are also called to be faithful like our Creator. For believers, biblical faithfulness is a direct reflection of God's character and is cultivated as a supernatural "fruit of the Holy Spirit" in Galatians 5:22.

So, for three Sundays we want to consider what does it mean to be faithful. Today we will look at faithful to God's Word. Next week we will consider what it means to be faithful to one another. And then on September 13 we will look at what it means to be faithful to serve.

Our text for this morning is Psalm 19:7-14. Let's read it now....

Thank you to Dan and Adrian highlighting our Biblical Counseling ministry. Biblical counseling is a vital ministry to precious people — people who are suffering, people who are confused, people who are burdened, people who are afraid. They come to us wounded, and they come to us needing more than sympathy. They need wisdom.

And this raises the question that has always stood beneath the practice of biblical counseling: where does the counselor get that wisdom? Not merely how do we sound wise, or seem compassionate, or offer good advice — but where does true wisdom, the kind that actually ministers to the heart and the soul, where does that true wisdom come from?

David answers that question for us in Psalm 19. He does not point us to the philosophies of men, or the wisdom of the wise, or the counsel of the crowd. He points us to the Word of God.

Main point: Psalm 19:7-14 reveals three truths about God's Word that teach us how to live our lives and counsel one another.

And in these eight verses, David gives us three truths about that Word — three truths that will teach us not only how to live our own lives, but how we counsel the souls entrusted to our care.

Trust the sufficiency of God's Word in verses 7-9

Treasure the value of God's Word in verses 10-13

Submit to the authority of God's Word in verse 14

My prayer is that we each will see that the wisdom we need for our own souls, and wisdom to care for the souls of others comes in God's Word. I pray we each see God's Word as sufficient and sure, valuable beyond gold, and worthy of our full submission. My prayer is that we faithfully learn God's Word, live it, and use it to minister to one another.

The first conviction we discover here is to:

I. Trust the Sufficiency of God's Word

David is describing the comprehensive sufficiency of God's revelation. Verse 7 begins with "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul."

We sometimes hear "law" and immediately think of legal regulations. But the word for law translates the Hebrew word Torah which has the broader idea of instruction or teaching.

Scripture is God instructing His people. It tells us what to believe. It tells us what kind of people we are to become. It tells us how we are to live.

And David says: "The law of the LORD is perfect." The idea is completeness, wholeness, integrity. God's Word is not defective. It does not have holes in it that must be filled by human wisdom. It is perfectly suited to accomplish what God intended it to accomplish.

And therefore it is: "restoring the soul." The word can carry the sense of restoring, reviving, refreshing, or turning back. The word translated "soul" refers to the whole inner person. God's Word reaches us at the deepest level. It is through the Word that God brings sinners to salvation.

James 1:18 says: "In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth."

1 Peter 1:23 says that we have been: "born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God."

Romans 10:17 says: "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

The gospel does not need human wisdom added to it to give it power. Romans 1:16 says: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

When I was teaching Biblical counseling in Russia a student by the name of Eugene ate lunch with me. He impressed me as an articulate, focused, studious, and intelligent man. But he said only a few years earlier he was a drug addict living homeless when a Christian tried to witness to him and gave him a Bible. He started to read that Bible and read about Jesus in the gospels and the Lord saved Eugene, changed him from the inside out. Eugene experienced the power of God's Word to restore his soul and now he was getting trained so he could serve and help others know how life changing it is.

That is our confidence: the Spirit of God working through the Word of God to reveal the Son of God. The Word restores the soul.

Notice how David continues in verse 7, “The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”

“Testimony” pictures Scripture as God's own witness concerning Himself and His will. And God's testimony is sure. It is firm. Reliable. Stable. Trustworthy.

We know that human opinions change constantly. What one generation celebrates, another generation rejects. Today's accepted theory can become tomorrow's discarded idea.

But God's testimony does not move. In Mark 13:31 Jesus said: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

And because God's testimony is sure, verse 7 says it is: “making wise the simple.” The Hebrew concept behind “simple” has the idea of openness.

Picture a house with the front door standing wide open. And not open momentarily, I mean open 24 hours a day! Everything can come in.

That is the simple person. He has no biblical filters. He hears one opinion and believes it. Then he hears the opposite opinion and believes that. The simple person is easily influenced because there is no settled standard for judging what is true.

But David says God's Word can take a simple, undiscerning person and make that person wise. Biblical wisdom is not merely possessing information. It is skill in godly living. It is learning to see life from God's perspective and then wisely making choices consistent with God's will.

Psalm 119:98-99 says: “Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.”

That does not mean believers know everything. It means that when it comes to living faithfully before God, the simplest Christian possessing and obeying God's Word has access to wisdom this world cannot produce.

But it gets even better! Verse 8 says, “The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.” “Precepts” refers to God's principles and directions for life. And David says they are right. They place us on the right road.

Have you ever travelled somewhere and you lose cell coverage and have no map or directions to follow? Imagine being lost in unfamiliar mountains when darkness begins to fall. You reach a fork in the trail and have no idea which direction leads home.

In that moment, suddenly you get a cell phone signal and accurate directions. Do you look at those directions on your phone as restrictive? No instead you rejoice as if they are a gift.

Friends, God's commands are not designed to rob us of joy. They direct us into the life for which our Creator designed us. And therefore verse 8 says, “The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.”

The world tells us that joy comes from ignoring God's boundaries. God tells us joy is found by walking within them.

Jesus said in John 15:10–11, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love... These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

The prophet Jeremiah experienced enormous hardship, yet in Jeremiah 15:16 he said: “Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart.”

Christian joy is not discovered by moving away from the Word. Our joy grows as we believe God’s Word, obey it, and increasingly see God through it.

David continues in verse 8, “The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.” The term “commandment” emphasizes Scripture’s authority. The Bible is not merely God’s advice. God does not say, “Here are some suggestions you may wish to consider.”

Our Creator speaks with authority to us, His creatures. Yet David says God’s commandment is pure or clear and enlightens our eyes. It gives light. Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

When I was a flight student in the Navy I was doing some training in Sacramento, a classmate and I left on a Friday to go camping in the Sierra Nevadas. And by the time we got to our trail it was really dark. I had never been on this trail before, and my flashlight did not show me everything ten miles ahead. But it gave sufficient light for my next step, and so step by step we went for miles until we eventually reached our destination.

That is often how Scripture works. God has not promised to satisfy every curiosity we have concerning tomorrow. But He has revealed everything necessary for obedience today.

So, when you ask:

How should I respond to suffering?

How should I deal with temptation?

How should I treat my spouse?

How should parents raise their children?

How do I forgive?

How do I handle anger?

How should Christians deal with anxiety and fear?

How do I deal with depression?

What should characterize my speech?

What is sexual purity?

What does faithfulness at my place of employment look like?

How do I confront sin?

How do I pursue reconciliation?

To all those questions and many more, God has not left us in darkness. His Word enlightens our eyes.

More than that, verse 9 says, “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.”

Here Scripture is called “the fear of the LORD” because God’s revelation produces reverence and worship. And it is clean. It contains no moral contamination.

Psalm 12:6 says, “The words of the LORD are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.”

Human books become outdated. Scientific textbooks require revision. Cultural standards change. Psychology theories come and go. But God's Word "endures forever." Isaiah 40:8 says, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

Verse 9 ends with, "The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether."

"Judgments" refers to God's verdicts. The Judge of all the earth has spoken. And everything He says is true. Not mostly true. Not true when it agrees with us and we feel like it is true. Not true only when our culture approves. God's Word is true and righteous altogether.

Psalms 119:160 says: "The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting."

If Scripture can bring us to salvation, train us in wisdom, lead us into joy, give us spiritual understanding, purify our worship, and reveal truth by which we may live, then Scripture is profoundly sufficient for our lives.

God has not left His people without the truth they need to know Him, please Him, to deal with the trials and temptations we will face in this world, and to live faithfully before Him.

And if God's Word is that sufficient, David shows us a second conviction we should live by.

II. Treasure the Value of God's Word

Verse 10 says, "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."

Notice that David moves from what Scripture is to what Scripture is worth.

"More desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold." Gold represented extraordinary wealth. David does not merely say Scripture is worth more than gold. He says it is worth more than much fine gold.

Imagine someone gave you a locked case containing one million dollars in cash. Would you throw it in the corner of your garage and say, "I'll get around to opening that sometime?"

You would protect it. You would value it. You would think carefully about what had been entrusted to you. Yet every Christian possesses something infinitely more valuable. We possess the revealed words of the living God.

How strange, then, that we can protect our bank accounts, monitor our investments, care for our homes, maintain our vehicles, and organize our possessions while allowing our Bibles to remain closed.

In Job 23:12, Job said, "I have treasured the words of God's mouth more than my necessary food." Can we say that? Do we value God's Word?

David continues in verse 10, "Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb." Honey was one of the sweetest foods available in the ancient world. David says God's Word gives a deeper pleasure.

Psalms 119:103, "How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

The Christian life is not merely gritting our teeth and obeying rules. As we mature, God changes our appetites.

We begin to love what He loves. We begin to delight in His truth. We begin to understand what Psalm 1 means when it describes how blessed is the man who “delights in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

Maybe the Word does not presently feel sweet to you. Do not conclude that the problem is with Scripture.

Our spiritual appetites can become distorted just as physical appetites can. A person who continually consumes junk food may lose his appetite for nourishing food.

Likewise, if our minds are constantly filled with entertainment, social media, the news, podcasts, controversies and endless digital stimulation, quiet meditation upon Scripture may initially seem difficult.

But you can cultivate an appetite for the Bible.

Read it.

Study it.

Meditate on it.

Memorize it.

Obeys it.

And increasingly you will discover its sweetness. And as sweet as it is, Scripture also protects us from sin. Verse 11 says, “Moreover, by them Your servant is warned.”

Sometimes people think warnings are negative. But warnings are expressions of love. If you are driving a car down the freeway and approaching a bridge and suddenly you see there are flashing lights and big sign that says “BRIDGE OUT” – that warning is not restricting your freedom. It may save your life.

God’s warnings concerning pride, lust, greed, bitterness, drunkenness, sexual immorality, dishonesty, anger, gossip, selfishness, and unbelief are not designed to deprive us. They are the loving warnings of a heavenly Father who knows where those roads lead. Psalm 119:11 says: “Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.”

When Jesus was tempted by Satan, how did Jesus repeatedly respond? Jesus said, “It is written.” If the sinless Son of God answered temptation with Scripture, how much more desperately do we need to fill our hearts with God’s Word?

David continues in Psalm 19 verse 11, “In keeping them there is great reward.”

Not merely reward. Great reward.

Obedience does not earn salvation. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. But God graciously rewards faithfulness (remember that is our theme).

Jesus repeatedly taught His disciples to live with eternity in view. In Matthew 6:31 Jesus said to His disciples, “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

The world tells us to maximize this life. Scripture teaches us to invest this life in eternity. And obedience to God’s Word never ultimately leaves us poorer.

There is great reward in obeying God's Word.

Then in verse 12 David suddenly turns inward. Verse 12 says, "Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults."

The closer David looks at the perfection of Scripture, the more clearly he saw the imperfection of his own heart. That is always what God's Word does.

Hebrews 4:12 says: "The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword... able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

You may think you are reading the Bible, but the living and active word of God is reading you.

Paula and I just visited our two daughters and their families. In the first home the bathroom light was kind of dim, and dim light can be kind of flattering. Dim light can make us feel better about our appearance.

But in the home of our other daughter the bathroom was brightly lit, and the bright light reveals what needs attention!

The point is this, Scripture does not merely comfort us; it exposes us. And its exposure is truly the mercy of God because God reveals sin in order to cleanse and restore us.

Scripture is like walking into a brightly lit bathroom and looking into the mirror. The Bible turns on the light.

And David realizes there are sins in his life he may not even recognize. "Who can discern his errors?" In other words, "Lord, there are things about me I cannot accurately see." That is humility.

Then he says in verse 12, "Acquit me of hidden faults." These are not necessarily sins David intentionally concealed from others. They include sins hidden even from his own awareness.

Have you ever looked back on something you did years earlier and thought, "How did I not see how proud I was? Or selfish? Or insensitive? Or controlling? Or fearful? Or unbelieving?"

Spiritual maturity often involves discovering sins that were previously invisible to us.

Then David moves from unconscious sin to deliberate sin. Verse 13 he says, "Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me."

Presumptuous sins are willful sins. These are not sins we stumble into unknowingly. These are moments when we know what God says and we selfishly choose another path anyway.

David understands something very important. Sin does not remain a harmless guest. No, sin seeks to become a master. So, David prays in verse 13, "Let them not rule over me." Because Sin tolerated becomes sin strengthened. Sin fed becomes sin enslaving.

David asks God: Reveal what I cannot see. Forgive what I have done. Restrain me from deliberate rebellion. Do not allow sin to dominate my life.

He continues in verse 13, "Then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression."

The Word that restores the soul also searches the soul. The Bible is not merely a book in which we study God. It is a living book that studies us and through which God exposes us.

And that my friends is evidence of God's mercy. God exposes us because He intends to sanctify us.

Scripture is more valuable than gold.
Sweeter than honey.
It protects us from danger.
It directs us toward eternal reward.
And it purifies us from sin.
How valuable is God's Word to you?

And that brings us to David's third and final conviction.

III. Submit to the Authority of God's Word

Verse 14 may be one of the best-known prayers in the Psalms. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer."

Notice where David ends. Not merely with: "I believe Scripture is sufficient." Not merely: "I believe Scripture is valuable." But, "Lord, make my life conform to Your Word."

It is possible to defend the sufficiency of Scripture without submitting to Scripture. We can win theological arguments about the Bible while refusing to obey the Bible.

This year marks my 30th year as a certified biblical counselor. Over the years I have seen God do above and beyond what I could imagine in biblical counseling cases. But I can also tell you that I have often heard these words from counselees, "I cannot do what you are asking me to do." In which I have responded, "First of all, I am not asking you, God is asking you from His Word – He is telling you clearly His wisdom and His commandments for your situation. And second, are you saying you "cannot" do what He is asking or you "will not" do what He is asking? There is a difference. I can show you how to obey what the Lord is saying, but I cannot make you obey what He is saying."

David knows how difficult life was for him, but by faith, not by his feeling, he wants something first. He prays in verse 14, "Let the words of my mouth... be acceptable in Your sight."

David wants his speech governed by God's revelation. The words we speak matter to God.

Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification."

But David knows controlling the mouth requires something deeper. Verse 14 continues "And the meditation of my heart..."

Words are downstream. The heart is upstream. Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, "The mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart."

So, David does not merely ask God to clean up his vocabulary. He asks God to govern his inner life.

The gospel transformation Scripture produces is not merely external. God's Word penetrates the heart.

Colossians 3:16 says: “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you.”

That is the goal. Not merely possessing a Bible. Not merely attending a church that preaches the Bible. Not merely believing a statement of faith about the Bible. But letting the Word dwell richly within us. Until it shapes how we interpret life.

How we evaluate our desires.

How we understand suffering.

How we respond to people.

How we make decisions.

How we speak.

How we worship.

How we think.

And David says: “Let... the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight.”

Ultimately, that is the test.

Not whether our thoughts are acceptable to our culture.

Not whether they are acceptable to our friends.

Not whether they make sense according to our feelings.

No, the question is this: Are the thoughts of my heart and the words of my mouth acceptable to God?

And notice how David addresses God, “O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.”

My rock. The One who is stable. Unchanging. Dependable. When everything around David shifted, God remained his rock.

And: “my Redeemer.” The One who rescues. The One who delivers. The One who pays the price to set captives free.

And for us, that word ultimately points to Jesus Christ.

The Bible is sufficient, but the Bible is not the Savior.

The Bible reveals the Savior. Jesus said in John 5:39: “It is these that testify about Me.”

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture unfolds God’s plan of redemption culminating in Jesus Christ. We are sinners who have violated God’s Word. We have not loved God with all our heart. We have not perfectly obeyed His commands. Our words and our thoughts have not always been acceptable.

We have committed hidden sins. We have committed presumptuous sins. Friends, we need more than instruction. We need redemption.

When Paula and I were in Kauai we went on a mountain bike tour. There was another couple on this tour who were on their honeymoon. And at the end of the tour they asked where Paula and I were going to dinner and I told them. And when Paula and I got in the car I said, “Cade and Winter are on the second day of their honeymoon and I don’t think we should invite them to sit at our dinner table. But if they invite us to their table, I think we should sit with them and pay for their meal.” Paula said, “Don’t worry, they are not going to invite us to sit with

them.” We got to the restaurant and we ended up parking right next to each other, and when we got out of our cars they asked, “Hey would you like to sit with us?”

Well, during dinner I asked them if they went to church and they said, “No we are LDS – Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Rather, we would say were LDS because don’t believe what we are taught and we have left the LDS church.”

So, this led to a discussion about what is missing in LDS doctrine. Most significantly the cross of Jesus Christ is missing. 1 Corinthians 1:18 says, “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

I explained to this couple that at the cross, Jesus bore our sins, endured God’s judgment in our place, and accomplished redemption.

Christ lived the righteous life we have failed to live.

Christ died upon the cross, bearing God's judgment against sin.

Christ rose bodily from the grave.

And Scripture calls every sinner to repent and believe in Him.

I thought at this point, the honeymoon was over and this young couple would want to leave. But to our surprise they wanted to hear more and in the end, they asked for our church website info so they could listen to our sermons.

The apostle Paul told young Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:15, “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 points us to the Redeemer. And the question for you this morning is this: Have you repented and come to saving faith in Jesus? Have you been redeemed?

And once redeemed, we then return to the Word again and again because through that Word our Redeemer continues to renew our minds, expose our sin, strengthen our faith, encourage our hearts, guide our lives, and transform us into His likeness.

So what should we do with Psalm 19?

Three convictions.

First, Trust the sufficiency of God's Word.

It restores the soul.

Makes the simple wise.

Rejoices the heart.

Enlightens the eyes.

Endures forever.

And is altogether righteous.

Second, Treasure the value of God's Word.

It is worth more than gold.

Sweeter than honey.

It warns us.

Rewards obedience.

And exposes and cleanses our sin.

And Third, Submit to the authority of God's Word.

Let it govern your mouth.

Let it govern your mind.

Let it govern your life.

When you are experience distress and turmoil, where will you turn for help? If you go to a counselor, will that counselor open the Bible and help you to see the hope you have in Christ and how God's Word has answers about the dilemmas you face?

And if your child, your sibling, your friend, your coworker, your classmate asks you for your counsel for what they are facing, will you open the Bible to them?

We are beginning our ministry year with incredible opportunities for you to be encouraged and equipped from God's Word. You can sign up today for our Biblical counseling seminars, our Women's and Men's Bible studies, and our Community Groups, our Women's Retreat with the theme of Faithfulness.

Don't treat God's Word as merely one option among many competing authorities. And may we never confess the sufficiency of God's Word with our lips while denying it by the way we live.

Instead, let us become a people who read the Word, study the Word, meditate on the Word, teach the Word, counsel with the Word, preach the Word, obey the Word, and treasure the Word.

Because the God who gave us this Word is: our Rock and our Redeemer. May we be faithful to His Word.

Let's pray.