

VIII. Thy Word is Truth in Biblical Perspective
The Supremacy and Sufficiency of God's Word
"What Does the Son of God Say About the Word of God? – 'It is Fulfilled'"
Luke 24:36-49
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April 5, 2015 – Morning Sermon

Let's start by looking in Luke 24. The disciples were talking about the resurrection and the place is the Upper Room. This is the Word of God. It's the truth. Luke 24:36-49 says [36] *As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"* [37] *But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.* [38] *And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"* [39] *See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."* [40] *And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.* [41] *And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"* [42] *They gave him a piece of broiled fish, [43] and he took it and ate before them.*

[44] *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."* [45] *Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, [46] and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, [47] and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. [48] You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*

The grass withers, the flower fades, this is God's Word, it abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

In other churches committed to Christ, not just this one, you will hear this phrase; God's inerrant, inspired and infallible Word. All three of these words – inerrant, inspired, infallible – are related but they are not synonymous. It is God's inspired Word where this is God's Word given by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles (New Testament) and Prophets (Old Testament) that He called. So this is God's Word breathed out by God through the Holy Spirit carried along by holy men. That means it is inerrant. Since God is the Author of the authors and He is the One who authors through the authors then while He is using them in their full humanity and this is God's Word therefore God cannot err. He is absolutely trustworthy in all His says therefore we say it is inerrant. Jesus put it this way that not one jot or tittle shall pass away until all is fulfilled (Matthew 5:18). Thirdly, it is infallible and that means it cannot fail. It must always be fulfilled and that includes every promise, prophecy, precept and principle in Christ by Christ and for Christ.

There was a television program that aired when I was younger that was called The A Team. I liked to watch this program just to watch Mr. T but the other reason I liked to watch it was because the last thing that would be said at the conclusion of the program by the star, George Peppard was "I love it when a plan comes together." So do I and in

God's kind providence He has led Briarwood to focus this year upon a ministry theme of God's Word is truth and the supremacy and sufficiency of God's Word.

I believe this is absolutely crucial, not only for you to believe that God's Word is supreme over what you believe and practice alone, but also for the church to know that because we are increasingly travelling through troubled waters where the culture will tell us what we're allowed to believe and practice as opposed to God's Word telling us what we believe and practice. It is only those with their eyes fixed on Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit who believe in the supremacy and sufficiency of God's Word that will say as a believer and as a church the culture is not to shape us but the Word of God is to shape us and send us into the culture. Therefore we need to know if this Word is trustworthy.

To take ourselves through that this year there are a few series of sermons for this year and today is the last sermon in the first series for this year. This happens to fall on resurrection Sabbath and it happens to be the seventh thing that Jesus tells us in the Gospel about His Word and He says it to explain His resurrection. In other words, our series has been what does the Son of God say about the Word of God. Thus far of the seven things He said that we have extracted out of the Gospels during His ministry we first of all heard Jesus say that the Word of God is truth. It doesn't contain truth. It doesn't become truth. It's not encountered and becomes your truth but it is truth. It is not truths proposed by man concerning God but it is the truth revealed by God to men.

As a believer what you believe now is counterculture. If your children are in public education every time you read an editorial or turn on the TV, you live in a culture that says we don't believe in objective truth. You shouldn't believe in objective truth because there is no such thing as objective truth. Of course I always like to ask them at that time, 'is that an objective truth?' It is nonsensical. I was just reading a professor who wrote and said, "I know when my freshman class arrives for less than five percent will believe in objective truth and it won't be long until I'll get them too." They believe that truth is constructed by the culture where you have your truth, I have my truth and the culture has its truth and that culture makes truth.

That's not new because that is what Pilot told Jesus right before he gave Him the verdict. Pilot said "What is truth?" Truth is whatever we say it is in Rome. So this is not new. Every man does what is right in his own eyes, Proverbs 21:2. But we live in a culture that is increasingly aggressive and declaring there is no such thing as absolute truth for there is only truth that you construct, therefore truth is something you create not something you learn. We believe you can be sanctified in the truth as Jesus said in John 17:17 for Thy Word is truth.

The second thing we found out is that God's Word is unbreakable. You can put your whole life, family, marriage, career, existence and eternity on the truth of God's Word and it will not break. It will stand forever.

Thirdly, is God's Word is readable. Jesus said time and time again, 'have you not read?' God's Word was designed to be preached but it was given to be read.

Fourthly, God's Word witnesses to Christ. All of the Old Testament points to Christ and all of the New Testament explains Christ. It is Christ centered. Jesus says you search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life but they bear witness of Me (John 5:39). It witnesses to Christ with the preeminence of Christ as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Fifthly, God's Word is Spirit and life. In other words you can't come to Christ but by the Holy Spirit but the Holy Spirit only works through the Word of God. Jesus said not to be confidence in the flesh for it is the Spirit who gives life and My words are Spirit and life (John 6:63). Where does the Spirit work? He works with the Word. How does the Word work profitably? It is with the Holy Spirit.

Sixthly, is the Word of God saves. It is not that the Word of God is your savior but you won't come to the Savior, trust the Savior or surrender to the Savior without the Word of God. It is the Word of God that tells you that you're a sinner, helpless and hopeless. We are born naturally believing that one we're not helpless and hopeless and whatever needs to be done we can do ourselves but the Word of God says that we are sinners, we need a Savior, we're helpless and hopeless. That is the bad news. The Good News is there is a Savior. He alone is your Redeemer. So the Word of God tells you that you need Him. The Word of God displays Him in all of His majesty to you and the Word of God is used to give you the faith to trust Him. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). So it is a saving Word.

This study is the last in this series. Seventhly, God's Word is infallible or it is a fulfilled Word. Jesus gives this on the first Lord's Day, the day of the resurrection and He gives it in the first Lord's sermon. Let's look back at the text for this study. Luke 24:44-45 says [44] *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."* [45] *Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.*

I cannot open your mind but God does allow me and calls me at this moment to open the Scriptures. I am praying that He will open your mind because here is what happens. Luke 24:45-49 says [45] *Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,* [46] *and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,* [47] *and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* [48] *You are witnesses of these things.* [49] *And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."* Let's walk through this.

We have just gone through the week of Passion starting with Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry. Then we celebrated Maundy Thursday where He fulfilled the last Passover and established the first Lord's Supper. Then we moved to Good Friday where He goes to the cross and it there He dies, not a martyr's death, not a model death, but an atoning death, substitutionary death where He takes the sins of all of His people for all of eternity upon Himself and drinks the cup of God's wrath, our hell, there on the cross. When He finished He said "It is finished." Then He is put in a grave and now we celebrate His resurrection on the first day of the week. This becomes known by the Apostles, articulated by John in the last book of your Bible, the Lord's Day.

As Jesus explains this first Lord's Day He says it was necessary and the Scripture must be fulfilled. Do you know why I went to that cross? It is written. Do you know why I went to that grave for three days? It is written. Do you know why I arose from that grave? It is written. The Scripture must be fulfilled for God's glory to be declared, and for your salvation to be secured. This is not an odd phrase. This phrase is throughout your Bible. In the New Testament alone it says 40 plus times that the

Scripture must be fulfilled. If we go to just the Gospels alone, 33 of those 40 plus times it says the Scripture must be fulfilled. It says it 17 times in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus really wants to tell His Jewish audience that He is not really an afterthought but that He is the fulfillment of the prophecies. The Gospel of Mark says it twice. Luke says it five times. John says it ten times.

Of those 33 times in the Gospel, 17 of those occurred from Jesus' lips during this week of passion. When He established the first Lord's Supper, as He identified Judas who would betray Him in that moment He says "the Scripture must be fulfilled." When they leave the Upper Room and go to the Garden He tells them "They hate Me without a cause that the Scripture must be fulfilled." When the captors come to capture Him, He looks at them and says to His captors "Why do you come looking for Me in this manner, has not My ministry been in the public but you do so that the Scripture may be fulfilled." Then He told them to take Him but leave the others alone and the Bible says He did that so that the Scriptures may be fulfilled. "Father, none whom You gave Me, I lose not one." While He is gone, Judas leaves and has not repentance but worldly sorrow. As Judas throws the 30 pieces of silver in the temple we're reminded that was the price was prophesied from Jeremiah and the Scripture would be fulfilled.

As they hung Him upon a cross it was done that the Scripture might be fulfilled. Then they divided His garments by the casting of lots that the Scripture must be fulfilled. Knowing it was finished He said "I thirst" that the Scripture must be fulfilled. Think about that. He has finished the atoning work and knowing He is about to give up His Spirit, there is another prophecy to be fulfilled. Was He thirsty? Absolutely, but it says that He said it that the Scripture might be fulfilled. He is hung between two criminals and John says that the Scripture might be fulfilled. When someone is hung like this it usually takes a couple of days for someone to finally suffocate so they would generally break their legs to make the process of dying go faster so that they could not raise themselves to take a breath. They get to Jesus and Jesus had already said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23:46). No man takes His life for He freely gives it (John 10:18). They see He is already dead by sticking the spear into His side. This is no accident for they did not break His legs because the Scripture said not one bone in His body will be broken that the Scripture must be fulfilled.

They took Him to a borrowed tomb. The Bible reminds us that He was laid in a borrowed tomb that the Scriptures may be fulfilled. Even as He hung between two criminals so that the Scripture must be fulfilled. Now He is risen and this is the first Lord's Day. He will make 15 appearances after His resurrection and four arguably five have taken place on this first day. He appeared to the women, specifically Mary Magdalene and what did she hear from the angels? 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is risen just as He said!' The Scripture is fulfilled. Then we're told in the Bible that He appeared to Peter but we have no record of that conversation for it's only affirmed in the Bible that it took place. Right before this He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and they are downtrodden, discouraged and depressed. They didn't understand what was happening and Jesus said to them "Oh you men, foolish and slow of heart, was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer, to die, to be buried and to rise again on the third day? Was it not necessary for the Scriptures to be fulfilled?"

It was not only necessary to provide an atoning death to save us but it was necessary because the Bible had already said how we would be saved that the Scriptures would be fulfilled. God had promised a Redeemer and the Redeemer would die an atoning death, be buried and rise on the third day. Luke 24:26-27 says [26] *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?* [27] *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.* Then they said in Luke 24:32, [32] *They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"*

Notice, they didn't say 'did not our hearts burn within us' when they saw Him, although I sure that was overwhelming. It was when He was explaining to them the Scriptures and they immediately took off to the Upper Room. They begin to tell the disciples in the Upper Room what just happened and now we pick back up in the text. This was where Jesus had said earlier that He was going to leave them for a short while and then He would rise again and show Himself to them. Now they are back in this Upper Room just days later and there He is fulfilling the Scriptures.

First of all He does a work of revelation where He reveals Himself. I love the way He said 'This is Me. This is not a ghost.' This is an appearance. 'Come and touch Me.' That body has now been raised, transformed into that glorious body, a body like all believers will have when they are raised to be with Christ forever. We see His marks in beauty glorified – look at My hands, look at My feet. Then it says they disbelieved with joy. They are almost there. They have joy but they still have some problems. Then He said 'Have you got something for Me to eat?' They gave Him some broiled fish. Now He is moving from revelation and affirmation to illumination and He opens up Scriptures to them.

This is my one little piece of negative here. Most contemporary church worship services would stop right there. Has this been a meaningful experience for them? They have just seen Jesus. In today's church when we talk about worship we privatize it into I'm going for my meaningful experience. I certainly want every experience of worship to be meaningful but we don't assemble for us to get a meaningful experience but to meaningfully praise God from whom all blessings flow. So Jesus says this just isn't about a meaningful experience, now sit down for I'm going to teach you the Bible and beginning with Moses and all the Prophets He explained Himself in all the Scriptures. Wouldn't you have loved to have heard that whole sermon?

All Luke recorded was the life takeaway. Luke 24:44-49 says [44] *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."* [45] *Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,* [46] *and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,* [47] *and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* [48] *You are witnesses of these things.* [49] *And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*

Christ had to suffer, die and be raised on the third day to fulfill the Scriptures. He not only wanted them to know the blessing of Scripture but He wanted them to know how they would be a blessing. Through them Jesus would send His message to the ends of the

earth. When you finish reading this today you are going to take the message to the end of your street, your neighborhood, your job, to all the nations, to the ends of the earth.

I can just imagine what Jesus was speaking to them in this sermon. You know that ark, it was Me. That temple was just there to point to Me. Those sacrifices were pointing to Me and what I was going to do on the cross. Those offerings were pointing to Me. All those prophets were pointing to Me, the Prophet. All those kings were pointing to Me, the King of Kings. All those priests were pointing to Me for I am the fulfillment of all of it – every type, prophecy, and narrative. It was to point to Me and the glory of the Father through the preeminence of Christ who is the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Then these Apostles are then going to write the New Testament which will explain Him. The Old Testament was pointing to Him, the New Testament explains Him and He explained Himself in all of the Scriptures. Remember that promise to your father Abraham, the Seed who will bless all the nations? That is Me. I'm the Seed and you're the instrument to bless the nations. I'm going to go away and when we finish that task I'll be back but before I go away go to prayer and I'll give you the Holy Spirit.

So Jesus goes from revelation and affirmation to illumination and instruction and then inspiration. I'm not talking about the inspiration you get in a moment from a painting or song or something like that. This is an inspiration that lasts. I am going to put My Spirit in you and you will have power from on high to be My witnesses to the world. Right there on the first Lord's Day worship that will become the pattern of the six days labor and one day worship. You will hear a Lord's Day where we assemble to give praise to the Lord. Jesus will establish this pattern during His 40 days on earth after His resurrection. Jesus has a 40 day seminar going with them. This is the first lesson He gives them back in the Upper Room. He will keep teaching them.

The next time He meets with them will be one week later. The first Lord's Day worship was on a Sunday evening in the Upper Room. There was one missing at this service, Thomas. Jesus will come back a week later on the Lord's Day and He sets the pattern. It is the Lord's Day of worship and praise and it's not just a meaningful experience. The Word of God saturates and permeates it as He preaches and teaches it. So it's not just a momentary experience that has to be repeated to a greater degree every week, it is the weight of God's Word that defines every experience that leads you out into the experiences of life that are both positive and negative to find out that the Scripture must be fulfilled.

It is fulfilled in adversity. Is there any greater lesson than the adversity of Christ going to a cross that fulfills the Scripture? The next time you and I face a trial and wonder what is God doing, He is fulfilling the Scripture in your life. The next time there is a blessing that comes, what is God doing? He is fulfilling the Scripture in your life. He is blessing you, refining you and fulfilling the Scripture. It is the Word of God that gives weight to your soul, direction to your life and a framework through which to interpret and understand life in a broken, sin struck world. So that is why the takeaway is a very simple one.

The takeaway is God will infallibly (that is unfailing), sovereignly, and relentlessly fulfill every precept, prophecy and promise in His Word. What if people oppose Him? Did anyone oppose Jesus 2,000 years ago? Pilot, Rome and the Sanhedrin were opposing Him to name a few. God sovereignly uses even His adversaries to fulfill His Word. His hand is not shortened by the opposition of men and women. I don't have

to cooperate God to enable God, for God has to work in me to enable me. God will sovereignly accomplish His purpose through His adversaries as well as His allies. Even when His allies fail Him as disciples run in fear, women weep in confusion, and His brothers are mocking Him, nothing will stop Him. He relentlessly will accomplish what the Father has sent Him to do to save His people from their sins, to keep them and bring them to glory. All of the promises of God are yes and amen in Jesus Christ. That is the Savior that you and I serve this day. That is the Savior that has come and done His work to fulfill the Scriptures and it was necessary to accomplish it.

Dear friends, you may be reading this today because God has moved you and you're searching and seeking. There is a certain emptiness. I cannot tell you how glad I am that you're reading this today. I need to tell you that we can't fill that up for you. We can't provide an experience to fill that up for you. I will tell you that the world will keep telling you about another toy to buy, another drug to take, another party to go to, another ethical law of God to violate and the world will tell you that it will bring happiness. The fact is, is that is brings death, more despair, more discouragement, and more brokenness in your life. The world will tell you that you just need to go a little deeper into depravity or a little further in rebellion against God or pay a little more money for the next toy but there will be nothing but emptiness.

Here is what Jesus promises you. He promises you life, not death. Sin's wages are death. Because Jesus died and rose again here is a gift. It is not a free gift for He paid for it. It is free to you but He had to buy it for you. He willingly, lovingly, even when you didn't want it, went to the cross and paid for it, rose from the dead and He gives it to you but you must receive Him. The Word that brings the faith to tell you that you need Him and to tell you what He did for you, has been spoken and now with the hearing of it, will you come to Him? If you do come to Him, He will right now make you right with God and not if you do better but now. We call this in the Bible justification. Instead of condemnation for our sin, now you are innocent, justified through Christ.

How can with everything wrong, I can be right with God? Come to Jesus. All your wrongness He took away at the cross. All His rightness He will give to you when you trust in Him so that you can be right with God. It is more than a standing. In the hymn Rock of Ages it says 'Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee, be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.' So you can leave here not only legally right with God with guilt and shame gone, but you can leave here and follow your Savior because of the emancipation where He sets you free from the bondage of sin. Instead of killing God's glory and embracing sin you can leave here and kill sin every day for the rest of your life and know the joy of following Jesus. He will be with you every day.

Because of the risen Savior the Scriptures also say in Romans 8:1-2, [1] *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* [2] *For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.* The Scriptures must be fulfilled. I Peter 1:3 says [3] *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.* II Corinthians 5:17 says [17] *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* Your Savior will be with you by the Holy Spirit until

He comes again. The Scriptures must be fulfilled. He is coming again in glory for you to be with Him.

But the Scriptures must be fulfilled for if you say 'no' to Him when He comes again the verdict is 'Depart from Me.' There is a lake of fire and it is reserved for all who stand in opposition to Him so if you're not for Him and with Him then you're against Him. Matthew 7:21-23 says [21] *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' [23] And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'* On that day the Scriptures will be fulfilled irrevocably but this day you can be saved.

Join the throng and watch weeping women become heralds of hope. Join the throng and watch cowardly disciples who become courageous Apostles. Join the throng where mocking brothers become ardent followers and believers of Jesus. Join the throng of the saved as our Savior takes us forward into this world. Join the throng because He has risen to fulfill the Scriptures. Join the throng for Jesus will save you because He loves you and He calls you. Come! He loves you and I know so because the Bible tells me so and it must be fulfilled. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word this Lord's Day. Thank You for the great privilege to give praise and glory and honor to our Savior, O God our God. We long for that day when we shall see Jesus when He returns, but until that day thank You so much for the gift of eternal life through Christ our Lord. Now Father, we sing praise to You, 'Alleluia the Savior has risen!' If today you would come to that risen Savior then simply say "Jesus, I come confessing my sins for I'm not coming to do better but I'm coming to You because of what You have done and what You promised to do in me. Jesus I surrender." If this day you have come already, now say to Jesus, "Fill me Jesus that I may go to the ends of the world beginning with the ends of my neighborhood to tell the world there is a glorious Savior, Jesus who fulfills the Scripture." I pray this in Jesus' Name, Amen.