

II. 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 Unbreakable’”
John 10:35
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III
January 25, 2015 – Morning Sermon

Let's start by looking at that glorious passage in God's glorious Word from John 10. We will focus on John 10:35 in our study but I want to read it in its context. This is the Word of God and that means this is the truth. John 10:22-31 says [22] *At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, [23] and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. [24] So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” [25] Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, [26] but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. [27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. [28] I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. [29] My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. [30] I and the Father are one.” [31] The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.*

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

I do not know but I think because of the plainness of the text, my guess is this text records a day that was pretty much like any other day but it was a day that a man who was Jesus was walking in the colonnade of Solomon's temple. He was likely surrounded by His disciples. Not long after this, this will become the first meeting place of the first church in Jerusalem. Thousands will be there after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Three thousand in one day will be converted there and they will keep coming back there to meet and that glorious meeting place will grow. Not long after He is there a crowd starts gathering. Very likely the Pharisees will be leading the conversation. Soon an interrogation begins with a very specific question and Jesus gives an answer. The result is they start picking up stones and they are just moments away from a public execution under the charge of blasphemy.

Why are we in this text? We are going to find out why Jesus was there that day and why they picked up stones that day. We will find out what Jesus does in response to that but why are we in this text? We are in this text because we have a ministry theme that we have embraced this year titled ‘Thy Word is Truth.’ It comes from John 17:17 which says [17] *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.* The outset of our study of it, is very focused. What does the Son of God, Jesus say about the Word of God, the Scriptures? I'm not going to cover exhaustively everything He said in His earthly ministry about the Bible but I have picked ten of them that I think are important for us to understand the Bible.

Why? Our subtitle for this theme has been the supremacy and sufficiency of God's Word. God's Word stands supreme. God's Word stands paramount for what we believe and practice. Five hundred plus years ago there was a great reformation. They captured some glorious truths. Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ

alone for God's glory alone but all of those came because of something else that they captured and that was the realization that everyone can, do and will err but God's Word will not err. Therefore they began grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, glory alone because they believed that the Scripture alone is our only rule of faith and practice. It stands supreme and it stands sufficient. It is the final statement of what we believe and what we do. The Scripture is also sufficient to tell us our origin, how we got here, how we are saved, how we're sustained and where we're going. It is sovereignly, singularly sufficient and supreme in our life. Nobody becomes a Christian and grows a Christian without the supremacy and sufficiency of God's Word bringing them to the God of the Word.

That is true throughout all the ages but you and I are living in an age where we're going to have to make some decisions. We are in a culture that is in a freefall. Many of you have been here long enough to have seen the freefall. You have been here long enough to see that you could have gone into the workplace and held a Biblical sexuality where sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed between a man and woman in the context of marriage, and been applauded for those views. In fact, you would have been sought after. Twenty years later if you say that it will cost you your job. So you are going to have to make a decision. In your world and life view what is supreme and sufficient in what you're going to believe and embrace? How then shall we live? Where is God's Word?

I think it's not only important to go throughout God's Word to see about its supremacy and sufficiency but just go to Jesus. Jesus, in Your Word what do You say about the Word? That led us to the first statement of Jesus' that we looked at which is our ministry theme from His High Priestly prayer in John 17. Sanctify My people, set them apart, sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. It is not truths, plural but truth, singular. Everything in it is woven together, inseparable and it's the truth. That means it tells the truth and it is the truth. That means there is no error in it when it tells us who we are, where we came from, why we're here, how to be right with God, how to walk with God, how to follow Christ, how to live for Christ, and where we are headed in Christ. It makes no errors whatsoever. Its veracity is absolute. Thy Word is truth.

I didn't pay a lot of attention in math. I tell people I majored in history and theology because I found out you only had to take one math course to get through school. I did find out 'is' in math means equals. Thy Word equals truth because Thy Word is truth. Not all truth is in the Bible but everything in the Bible is truth. Some truth is just revealed in creation. All that I need is in the Bible to know the truth in order to frame a Christian world and life view. Thy Word is truth is the first thing Jesus said.

So why are we in this text? It is because of a parenthesis, an editorial comment. I am about to read it. Jesus is going to respond to His proposed public execution and then while responding to it, He'll make a little comment, a parenthesis. It's that parenthesis whereby He gives us statement number two that we're going to embrace concerning the Word of God, itself. What does the Son of God say about the Word of God? Let's look at the text.

Jesus is in the expansiveness of the colonnade and He rapidly attracts a crowd. The crowd immediately begins to question Him. He is not unknown for He has already been there. In the opening days of His public ministry He had come there and cleansed the temple. In the closing days of His ministry He is going to come back there and cleanse the temple again. He has been there answering questions. As they pour water

into the pools He is there saying “Is anyone among you thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.” He has done miracles there and now He’s back. They come up to Him and immediately go into an interrogation.

They ask a very specific question, “Jesus, tell us plainly, are You the Christ, the Anointed One, the Prophet, Priest and King?” Jesus basically says that has been asked and been answered but you don’t believe Me. He says “If you don’t believe My word go take a look at my works; signs, wonders, and miracles that I did. Does that confirm My words?” That was a purpose of signs, wonders and miracles, whether they clustered around Moses to confirm his ministry or Elijah and his ministry. They cluster around Jesus to confirm He is the Messiah. They will later cluster around the Apostles as they are giving us the Scripture and establishing the church. God sends these works of supernatural events, miracles creating wonder in order to signify something. So Jesus is telling them to look at what He has done for it is telling them the truth. If you don’t believe My words then believe My works.

Then He tells them that they won’t believe Him. The reason they aren’t going to believe Him is because they don’t believe the Father. Those whom the Father has given to Me they will believe. They will hear Me. You will know who they are because they will follow Me. You don’t believe because you don’t believe the Father has sent Me. I’ll lose not One whom the Father has given Me. Then the text says in John 10:29-31, *[29] My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. [30] I and the Father are one.” [31] The Jews picked up stones **again** to stone him.*

This isn’t the first time they tried to stone Him. Sometimes they want to stone Him because of His works. He is doing miracles and they say ‘what do you mean raising somebody up on the Sabbath?’ Here when they want to stone Him Jesus will ask them and this will be the occasion for us to learn something about God’s Word. John 10:31-39 says *[31] The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. [32] Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” [33] The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.” [34] Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? [35] If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—[36] do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? [37] If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; [38] but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” [39] Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.*

So He wants to know which one of these things are they going to stone Him for now. I told you if you don’t believe Me then believe My works. I and the Father are one. This time we’re not going to stone You for Your works but Your word for You are a blasphemer. It’s very interesting to me to see all the liberal theologians stumble all over this passage. They say what Jesus really meant was what God the Father was doing He was in partnership with Him by getting His will accomplished. Yeah sure, these orthodox Jews would have picked up stones because Jesus was saying I’m doing what the Father called Me to do. No, they understood what He was saying when He said I and the

Father are one. He was affirming His deity. So they are going to pick up stones and execute Him.

What is He going to do? He doesn't retreat. He doesn't retract. He responds with an astonishing response. He says 'Why are you going to stone Me for this? You have received the Law of God. God's authoritative teaching is yours and in that it says you are gods.' He said to those who received the word 'you are gods.' 'If I am one with the Father why would you stone the One who takes the title I have given to those who represent Him?' Let me try and explain this.

Here He is quoting Psalm 82 interestingly. His life is threatened and He appeals to an almost forgotten Psalm. I'm pretty sure most of you have not been running around reading Psalm 82. This was a Psalm of Asaph. David didn't even write this one. Jesus appeals to Asaph's Psalm which is a Psalm of mercy and in that Psalm it says part of God's mercy is to give you rulers and judges. Psalm 82:1 says *[1] God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment.* God gives you rulers and judges and sits in the midst of them. God works through them and we call them gods. In other words, God called and appointed them and they are doing His work and He is telling us out of respect for what He has done through them, you call them with this diminishing of His name, gods.

We have picked up on that in our culture sense then. For instance, the Westminster Confession of Faith was put together by those called and appointed to speak for the Lord to preach the Word of the Lord. They were called back then 'divines' and not that they were divine in and of themselves but the Divine One had fashioned them and spoke through them in order to help His people with His Word, so they were given that title. Not only is there the church but there is also the state and most of us come from backgrounds where those in authority according to Romans 13 are ministers of God, for His purposes. So we would say, 'My lord,' 'My master,' and use various titles that in fulfillment and fullness belong to God alone but because God has delegated something to them then out of respect of their position it is given to them.

So Jesus goes back to Psalm 82 that affirms the rulers and judges that God had appointed in Israel He had given them a title of gods. He says if I have given them that title through which I gave them the Word, now the Word has come to you. Why would that title in its fullness, not be Mine? He basis His whole life expectancy, since being under execution, under one Psalm, one verse, one Word. Why would He do that? He gives you the editorial comment. The Scriptures are unbreakable. They cannot be broken. We have learned the Scriptures are truth for they are inerrant. Now we've learned the Scriptures are unbreakable. They are infallible. They bear the full weight of God's people. If the Scripture is unbreakable and it brings the right to My title then you cannot bring the charge of blasphemy and by that He refutes it. That's basically an overall dynamic.

In John 10:35 Jesus says, "*and Scripture cannot be broken...*" The Scriptures are unbreakable. It's an interesting phrase. In my study on this I found out that it actually means it cannot be untied or unraveled. As I was thinking about this I thought of the time when Cindy and I left East Carolina to go to Covenant College. Cindy was expecting our first child and the doctor said as she was getting close to delivery that she needed to walk so at the time we lived on top of Lookout Mountain and we carved out time to walk in the afternoon. As we did this we had seen the Lookout Mountain Cable Car which claimed it

was the most exciting one mile ride in the world. It was exciting enough for me just to look at how it went straight up the side of the mountain with a car full of people and there is just one cable pulling it up to the top.

I didn't have a lot of confidence just seeing that one cable there and my wife said "Are we going to ride that?" Interestingly right where you buy tickets to ride it they have a display of how the cable is manufactured. It starts with this little bity wire that is wrapped with two others into a strand of wire. Then there are a lot of strands that come from those three strands that are all wrapped together and then there are three more that are wrapped together. Once you come out there you get a bunch of them and they are all wrapped together in a strand so that cable pulling the car up the mountain that you see is actually in the final analysis is over 1,000 strands of wire all wrapped together individually and separately supposedly any one of them could hold up a number of people. I looked at that and thought "that looks pretty unbreakable to me."

Then I thought of the time when I was a child and my mom and dad would take us to see the changing of the colors of the leaves in the fall at Grandfather Mountain. There is a bridge at this mountain called the One Mile High Bridge. You can look down one mile when you're on it. I was 9 years old and my dad said to me "Let's go." I was not sure about this. I remember feeling the planks as I went and the ropes along side of me and thinking "Is this thing going to bear me up?" This is what Jesus is telling us. The Scriptures will bear all the weight of your life now and for eternity, not just all of the Word of God or any part of the Word of God, but any word in the Word of God. God's Word is not only truth but it is unbreakable.

I want to give you a couple of themes from the narrative that are not directly related but I just can't walk by them. Three different times in the text Jesus tells them who He is and He says 'if you don't believe what I say then believe what I do' and there is a lesson here. The first is our works affirm words. Our works affirm or negates our words. Jesus tells them that He claims to be the Messiah so now go see what I did. It's not His works that made Him the Messiah. He is the Messiah and His words confessed He was the Messiah but His works affirmed who He was. Jesus will tells us about believers and teachers and will say 'you'll know them by their fruit.' If there is a root then there will be fruit there. You'll know them by their works.

The Bible says we're saved by faith alone in Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9 says [8] *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* Your works do not save you but go to the next verse in Ephesians 2:10 which says [10] *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* Our works evidence the reality of what we are confessing. So believers have an uneven life, an up and down life, but they have the evidences of God's face in their life if their confession of Christ is true.

Another theme from the text is that He reaffirms that the Word of God comes from God. He reaffirms that the Bible is God's Word. In the last study we saw from John 17 that Thy Word is truth. There are over 40 plus human authors covering a span of almost 1600 years and there is an Author behind the authors. It is God's Word. Because it is God's Word now we know this is the Word of God. Jesus reaffirms that when He says 'the Scriptures you have received, that have come to you.' This is God's Word. That's brings us to a third theme to note.

Thirdly, if God's Word comes from God then it bears the marks of God. Why is God's Word true? It is because it's God's Word and God is true. Let every man be a liar. God is true and what God says is truth. It is the truth and God cannot be shaken therefore His Word is unbreakable. It's can't be broken. When God's Word tells us what marriage is that can't be broken. When we walk away from it with the vain philosophies of our age, that will break. When God's Word says to us, 'all who put their trust in Jesus Christ shall surely be saved' that can't fall for it is infallible. When you take your life, and by God's grace it defines and directs you because you want to live for Christ and not that your works are going to save you but you love your Savior so you come to His Word, it says to you what a husband is and you begin to develop your life and grow in that, that can't be broken. If you frame your life by the fads and philosophies of this age that will break.

When the Bible tells a woman to come along side of her husband, respect him and complete him, that is unbreakable when God gives us the grace to embrace that. When the world defines its vanity of humanity, masculinity and femininity, and we begin to march after it that will always end in brokenness. God's Word as it gives us direction for our salvation, who we are and how we're made, the identity of creation, the redeeming work of Christ in grace, they are all true and they cannot fail. God's Word is true and unique.

What kind of Bible do you have? You have the Holy Bible. The word holy means unique and no other book is like it. This is not the good book. There are authors who write good books but this is The Book. It tells you the truth because it comes from God. It is unfailing, infallible and unbreakable because it comes from God. Because this comes from God it bears the stamp, attributes and character of God. That's why we say it's the Holy Bible and there is none like it. When Jesus is facing His life under an execution He doesn't appeal first to rationality or a logical discussion but He appeals to the Bible. He goes to Psalm 82 and says that will work, even that one word will work. Why? It is because it is part of that which cannot be broken and He puts all of His confidence in it.

Here is a fourth theme to consider. When Jesus tells us His Word is unbreakable, then all the Word is unbreakable. All of God's Word is true. Every passage in the Word of God is unbreakable. Because it is true it is inerrant. Now we may be in error in our interpretation but it is inerrant. It is also infallible and unbreakable. Every part, verse and word is unbreakable. Jesus says that more than that in Matthew 5:17-18, [17] *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. [18] For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."* His Word is absolutely dependable and unbreakable.

So it's not just John 3:16 or Romans 6:23 but every word and all passages of Scripture are all infallible. They cannot be broken or unraveled. There is no weak link. It is all true. It is all strong. It cannot be untied. Every part of it and every single aspect of it is all true and unbreakable. So what does that mean? I have a simple takeaway to give to you.

The takeaway is the Scripture is unbreakable and that means it is **absolutely** infallible – from the top of it to the bottom of it, from the beginning of it to the end of it, in the middle of it and throughout it. That means it's unbreakable from Genesis to

Revelation. That means it includes every part of it, every word in it and every aspect of it. In fact, I'll close this way by going to Matthew 22 and showing you how Jesus does this. He uses one word in John 10 and that's not the only time He does it. Here they have come to trap Him.

Matthew 22:15-22 says [15] *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. [16] And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. [17] Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" [18] But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? [19] Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. [20] And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" [21] They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." [22] When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.*

They try to trip Him up and He just comes back to what we know very pointedly, the separation of church and state. God has appointed the church to do this and the state to do that. One of the rights the state has to do is taxes and if they have rendered the money in God's sovereignty then they have the right to call for the taxes. When the Pharisees are put away the Sadducees see their opportunity so let's continue in the passage.

Matthew 22:23-33 says [23] *The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, (that's why they are sad-you-see) and they asked him a question, [24] saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.' [25] Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. [26] So too the second and third, down to the seventh. [27] After them all, the woman died. [28] In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her."*

[29] *But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. [30] For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. [31] And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read (in the Bible) what was said to you by God: [32] 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." [33] And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.*

He refuted them and their doctrine of no resurrection with one word, the word 'am.' Have you not read in your Bible that God said that 'I **am** the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?' Where would someone have read that? You would have read that in the Pentateuch. Moses wrote the Pentateuch and he lived 400 plus years after Abraham had died. God is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living and if He says He is the God of the living and He is the God of Abraham then what does that tell you? It tells you that Abraham lives. If He had said 'I was' the God of Abraham then you have an argument but He said I am. That means Abraham is immortal. That means we affirm the resurrection. It was done with one word. So we see that every part and word of the Bible is true.

God's Word is not only inerrant, infallible and unbreakable but what He then I must say to you and to myself. God's unbreakable Word you will not believe until by God's grace it breaks you. You have to be broken to believe it. Believe me you will be broken by His Word – either today when it breaks you and you put your trust in Jesus who came into this world to go to the cross for you or it will break you when He comes back. He does what His Word says – depart from Me, all of you, to that unending yet forever place of torment for I never knew you.

When they brought a charge of blasphemy against Him they said to Him “You being a man, make yourself into God” but what they didn't realize was that He was actually God and He made Himself man. He was not a man who made Himself God but He was God that made Himself man because the Scriptures had prophesied it and the Scriptures cannot be broken. If you come to that Christ and put your trust in Him you are in the grace of God by the Word of God and it is unbreakable. Again one word – truly, truly, he who believes in Me has eternal life or there is therefore now no condemnation for those who have been broken by the Word of God and come to the Word Incarnate. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus – come! Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. I thank You that this Jesus is glorious as Savior and King. He will reign forever. I pray that by His Word He would reign in our hearts that it would break us that we would surrender to this message of grace that God has become man to fulfill the Scriptures at the cross and pay for all of our sins. Break our hearts with Your Word and send us to Christ by that Word and then hear that Word. All who put their trust in Me shall never be disappointed and that is unbreakable for I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.