

The Word on the Word Series: 5

Psalm 119

The Limitless Nature of the Word

Psalm 119.96 (Amp)

“I have seen that everything [*human*] has its limits and end [*no matter how extensive, noble, and excellent*]; but Your commandment is exceedingly broad and extends without limits [*into eternity*].”

Everything of man has its limitations no matter how excellent and great they are.

“I have learned that everything has limits; but your commandment is perfect” (TEV)

“Everything I see has its limits, but your commands have none” (NCV)

“To all perfection I see a limit; but your commands are boundless” (NIV)

“Nothing is completely perfect, except your teachings.” (CEV)

Everything in life is transient, even our natural life itself – that means it changes and comes to an end.

Technology Changes! - Listen to some changes that have occurred in recent years:

- If you are 1 in a million in China, there are 1350 people just like you
 - China will soon become the #1 English speaking country in the world
 - The 25% of India's population with the highest IQ's is greater than the population of USA
 - The top 10 'must have' jobs in 2013 did not even exist in 2004
 - We are currently preparing students for jobs that do not exist, using technologies that have not yet been invented, to solve problems we don't even know about.
 - In USA, 1 in 5 couples met online, by 2025 it is estimated that this will be 1 in 2 couples.
 - WhatsApp has 600 million active users, if WhatsApp was a country it would be the third largest in the world behind China and India
 - There are 3.5 billion Google searches every day – In 2006 it was 2.7 billion per month.
 - The first commercial text (sms) message in the world was sent in 1992. Today the number of sms messages sent daily equals 7 billion, but WhatsApp users send 50 billion messages every day.
 - The amount of new technical information is doubling every two years. For students starting a four year technological degree this means that ½ of what they learn in the first year will be outdated by the third year of their course.
 - It is estimated that a week's worth of New York Times contains more information than a person would come across in their entire lifetime in 18th century.
 - By 2049, a \$1000 pc will exceed the computational capabilities of the entire human species.
- Technology and human ideas always need revision, correction, upgrading or updating.
 - Politicians, like pop stars and economic gurus become the “in thing” for a while, then they change.
 - Newspapers are reprinted daily as news changes by the minute.

But God's word is perfect and cannot be improved. It is more current and up to date than tomorrow's newspapers.

Our faith rests on the eternal unchanging word of God, a secure anchor in a temporal and changing world. "Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing causes them to stumble" (vs165).

Listen to the opening thoughts and instructions of the psalmist as he contemplates the blessedness of living according to God's unchanging word (vss1-24)

- Blessed or happy are those who choose to use God's perfect word as the basis for their lifestyle (vs1-2). They can't go wrong (vs3)

- "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word" (vs9).
 - For older men and for women, the recipe is just the same, as we have read in vs 1-2

- "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (vs11)
 - God's unchanging, limitless word has power to keep us from sin.

- "Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (vs17-18)
 - God's word is a treasure chest that is full of instruction for successful living in an ever changing world. Some have said foolishly, that the Bible is just an ancient manuscript of religious writings – but here the psalmist attributes his life to keeping God's word. There is power in His word.

- "Remove me from reproach and contempt, for I have kept Your testimonies" (vs22)
 - In keeping and living according to God's word we are judged in line with it. We are kept from reproach and contempt

- "Your testimonies are my delight and my counsellors" (vs24)
 - God's word gives us all the advice, guidance and instruction we need to live in this world.