

## **God’s Word** *By James Moriello*

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*“Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”* (1 Peter 1:25, NKJV)

Our country was founded two centuries and two score ago upon certain objective principles, such as the right to life and liberty. It was the desire of the founders of the United States of America that these principles not be changed. How much more so is our Christian faith founded upon bedrock principles! Believers in Jesus Christ celebrate freedom from sin’s power, a freedom made possible not by the death of soldiers on the battlefield, but by the death of the Son of God on the cross and His subsequent Resurrection! While some may wish to invent their own “spirituality” based upon subjective experience, personal preference, and lustful proclivity, there is no substitute for God’s honest and objective truth found in the Bible. A sermon is no sermon at all if it is not rooted in and saturated with God’s Word, with care taken to handle it accurately. The more of God’s words and the fewer of man’s words interpolated, the more powerful the preaching will be.

Peter, writing primarily to Christians, has this to say: *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you”* (1 Peter 1:22-25). Notice that *“the word”* is made mention of three times in this passage. In the Bible, *“the word”* is a concept which comes not from Greek philosophy, but from the Hebrew and Aramaic concept of “memra.” *“The word”* according to this understanding is two things. It is the agent of God’s creation and the agent of God’s salvation, both of which are personified in our Lord and God, Jesus Christ. For it is written, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (John 1:1). In summary, God’s word, as it appears in our passage in First Peter, can be defined as both the written and spoken gospel of Jesus Christ. This

morning, we shall make applications with regard to the power of God’s word, and the permanence of God’s word.

First, the word of God is powerful.

1. The word of God is powerful unto salvation, “*for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes*” in “*the only begotten Son*” and places full faith in Jesus Christ’s finished work at the cross and His Resurrection (Romans 1:16; John 3:16).
2. The word of God has the power to create life. Just as in the beginning of God’s creation, life was created by divine decree, the spiritual birth (being “*born again*”) is effected by the word of the Lord (Genesis 1; 1 Peter 1:23).
3. The word of God has the power to discern the heart. “*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*” (Hebrews 4:12).
4. The word of God is an agent of divine judgment. This is not often stated from many pulpits, but the church of God is required to preach the whole counsel of God. We are not here to tickle the ears of sinners. We love enough to tell the truth. Therefore, consider the following Scriptures with seriousness and reverence. “*Is not My word like a fire?*” says the LORD, “*And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?*” (Jeremiah 23:29). “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*” (Hebrews 10:31).
5. The word of God has the power to sanctify believers in Christ. Jesus, in His High Priestly prayer said, “*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth*” (John 17:17). One result of His work with regard to His church is “*that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word*” (Ephesians 5:26).
6. The word of God has the power to increase righteousness. Knowing this, godly men and women follow the example of the Apostle Paul by praying after the following manner for each other. “*Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness*” (2 Corinthians 9:10).

7. The word of God is a weapon of spiritual warfare. The battle is real, and the battle lines have been drawn. Christian friend, you have an enemy—the devil, and the destruction of your solid faith in Christ is his goal. Arm yourself, Christian soldier, with *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Ephesians 6:17). Maybe you are one who has been playing both sides against the middle, with a foot in God’s Kingdom and a foot in the world. In the battle, you stand in no man’s land, and will become collateral damage if you refuse to join the ranks under the standard of Jesus Christ.
8. The word of God has the power to bring about kingdom growth. True revival must have a basis in Bible truth, and bring sinners to repentance. Knowing that God is able to do great things today, let us pray that the result of our ministry be that *“the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed”* (Acts 19:20).

Second, the word of God is permanent.

1. We have it in our text. *“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you* (1 Peter 1:24-25). The time we spend on this earth is very short compared to the eternal nature of the word of God. We have one lifetime in which to accept or reject the living Word, Jesus Christ. The blessings of the gospel will endure forever. It’s not worth it to do anything other than embrace the Lord in this life. Think about it. And choose wisely.
2. The word of God is certain in what it affirms. Jesus said, *“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled”* (Matthew 5:18).
3. The word of God is unchangeable. *“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth. Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever”* (Psalm 119:89,151-152).
4. The word of God is the divine standard. This is true for all time with regard to God’s moral statutes and judgments. Some try to excuse their sin and the sins of others by claiming that they can live as they please in sinful lifestyles,

because we are under grace and not the law. It is true that we are under grace, but the holiness of God remains the divine standard. *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”* (Romans 6:1-2). Further, we find the command reiterated in the New Testament to *“Be holy, for I am holy”* (1 Peter 1:16). Let us say with Isaiah, *“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”* (Isaiah 8:20).

5. The permanence of God’s word is rooted in His character. *“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”* (Numbers 23:19).

*“Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you”* (1 Peter 1:25). You know the power and permanence of God’s word, if you did not before. Are you neglecting the reading, hearing, and study of it? Do you despise its power? Do you despise God’s testimony? The Psalmist writes of his Maker, *“For You have magnified Your word above all Your name”* (Psalm 138:2). My greatest fear is that these things have fallen on a deaf heart, one remaining unaffected by the gospel. If this is your case, you are lost, spiritually dead in your sins. Believe, and be saved! May God use this message to bring many to saving faith in God through His Son Jesus Christ, and as a clarion call to believers to get serious about the spiritual disciplines related to the powerful and permanent word of God.