

## Word of God – obey part 2

Let me state something that is very important about my job, my calling today here in this church.

I am not here today to give you my random opinions, I am not here to be a popular preacher,

I am here to be a spokesman for God.

I am here to give you the mind and word of God. And His Word is to be obeyed- full, not just one of the things you “think about”. His word requires change- obedience.

Mountaineering class and the type of students.

Throughout ages this chapter has been a treasure, and for an evangelical it is a gold mine on the Word Of God.

Thomas Manton, a Puritan preacher wrote a total of 1,677 pages on this chapter alone.

Martin Luther professed that he prized this Psalm so highly,

that he would not take the whole world in exchange for one part of it.

William Wilberforce, who was largely responsible for the abolition of slave trade

throughout the British Empire in the early 1800s,

David Livingstone pioneer missionary to Africa when he was 9 years old

and other great people have memorized

this whole Psalm and found great blessing in doing so.

Here is the banquet spread of God’s beautiful Word.

What I love (as an evangelical) is that ‘the Bible’ is referred to in every verse.

What I want to do this morning is to look at the different terms for the Word of God.

There are primarily eight Hebrew root words that are synonyms for the Word of God and are throughout the chapter.

Law – The Word of God revealing His will.

Statutes - The Word of God in its testimony is faithful.

Precepts - The Word of God giving specific instruction.

Decrees - The Word of God is binding.

Commands - The Word of God has all authority.

Ordinance - The Word of God gives discernment.

Word - The Word of God in all its forms.

Promise - The Word of God is reliable.

With the exception of verse 122, every single verse in the poem contains at least one of these eight synonyms. Each root word reflects the relationship of the Word of God to the believer.

Like the sound of a note played by different instruments, each word has the same note, meaning, and pitch, but a different timbre.

1-2 if you want spiritual blessings in life, Walk according to his word

**Verse 3** They do nothing wrong; they walk in His ways

The first word (ALSO- not seen in the NIV) binds this verse with the preceding two verses that shows a commitment to God’s word.

They do not compromise with evil- we allow ourselves to get close to evil and wrong

Obey the Word Of God completely to avoid sin

**Verse 4.** You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed

Starts with a God centered (theocentric perspective) the emphatic “You” God’s perspective on obedience. This should bring us to more of realness in our responsibility. 2nd person.

Precepts 21 times

Precepts, rule of behavior, decrees, instructions, charges, orders. Declarations of what he expects of a man or a particular task to be discharged. God is the sovereign commander and source of these orders and we must obey

It’s important to remember that we express our love through obedience to God.

*“If you love me, obey my commands”* John 14-15.

Why obedience?

He has commanded it

He has put his authority into it

It is a dependable standard

His decrees are given with the very idea that they will be kept and diligently kept.

Really, when we see who the Lord is. How could we not?

James says be a doer of the word.

Imagine if I told my kids, “go clean your room”. Did you clean your room?

And their reply was “No. I just memorized what you said, wasn’t that good enough?

Not delayed obedience

When I was memorizing this while bow hunting one year, my heart became saddened and troubled. Why do I not obey ‘fully’?.

As believers in Christ, we understand that only HE lived out Psalm 119 perfectly.

So it is only because of Him, through Him, in Him, we can live it out His precepts  
not perfectly but faithfully.

Then comes verse 5 and the first person expression was so beautiful to me.

Verse 5. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

We finally have 1<sup>st</sup> person. This flow of intimacy allows us to view God’s perspective of obedience and brings it to our own responsibility

The verb here is has the weight of one who calls upon the Lord for His enabling work toward the goal of obedience. “May it be unwavering.”

Another repeated theme in Psalm 119 is the praying for God’s help in understanding the word. The Psalmist does not trust in his own ability to do this.

Pray for God’s Help for Understanding the Word

*Blessed are you oh Lord, teach me your statutes”* (12)

*Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things...”* (18)

*Make me understand your precepts”* (27)

*Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes”* (33)

*Give me understanding”* (34, 75, 125, 144, 169)

*teach me your statutes”* (64, 68, 124, 135, 171)

Decrees – 22 times verse 5 and 8

Decrees, to inscribe. Derived from the root verb “engrave” or “inscribe”. The statutes were inscribed on a tablet or stone. Like a binding force of permanence.

Is. 30:8 *Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness.*

A line I often is “etch this into your memory, make it like a soul tattoo”.

**Verse 6** *Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands*

Shame the ultimate disaster in the ancient Near East. We see this in people today. Employers, officials and others are looking for new levels of integrity. Many times in the Psalms is the plea for God's presence and assistance to not be put to shame.

Commandment – 22 times here and 184 in the OT

Commandment, law, decrees. Anything ordained by God. The straight authority of what God said. This is his will. Often in the OT obedience to God's commands bring blessings, and disobedience brings curses.

**Verse 7** *I will praise You with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.*

true praise sincerely offered will habitually accompany growth as a disciple. 'I have learned' is the likely word for discipleship in the Old Testament. A continuous learning not arrive, again dependent on God's enlightenment. Worship and obedience are not separate together

Laws –23 times

Laws, divinely ordered, decisions on issues. They point to rules of righteousness. It has a forensic color to it, because they judge concerning our words and works

**Verse 8.** *I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me*

desire for obedience, We need unbroken communion with our God

The Word establishes the foundation of our thinking and what we are to believe and behave.

We are not over it, under it. We are not a master of it, it masters us.

How do we do this?

Hunger after God

Hunger after God's Word

Hunger after God's ways

Learn to seek God and God's ways through God's Word.

All these words must have a bearing on and in our lives

A knowledge of God's Word that does not result in action

serves only to indorse pride and conceit. This would be a dead church.

As I stated before, the Word of God and the Law of God is the decisive factor in every sphere of life. So how does this affect our lives today?

The Bible has the complete revelation for salvation and it is sufficient and relevant for all that we need for all the areas of our life.

Prayer

Your boldest prayers can be predicated on the faithfulness of God's promises

for they are... Faithfull, true, trustworthy, ethically upright, clear.

For you and me – remind and pray the promises of God on our death bed

Knowing God

152 times "God/Lord" is in this chapter. The Author is faithful, righteous, and sovereign.

Shaping of our souls and lives

Conformity to His will. This chapter shows the awareness of our own frailty and waywardness of our lives and our total dependence on God's fellowship and resources.

It strips away our pretense and creates the proper atmosphere of dependency for the

children of God. We must apply the word to our lives. Life style obedience. Habits of entrapments

Life giving

The Bible is God's way of salvation, verse 93

Delight in and find Joy

This is true piety: a love of God not dry, dull, or lifeless by study  
but refreshed, informed and nourished by it." Spourgen

Last verse in Psalm 119. Look at 176: "*I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant*"  
Even though the Psalmist has this fortitude to keep God's word, he is torn because he knows that he doesn't do it perfectly. He desires to be saved. the cry from a broken spirit.

May our passion be to be conformed to His will.