

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study *Spoken: The Rhythm of God's Word* these sermon outlines will use the same Scripture passages as the small group study, so the pastor can reinforce the study from the pulpit.

Introduction: Samuel Chadwick wrote, "There is no book like the Bible. It is a miracle of literature, a perennial spring of wisdom, a wonderful book of surprises, a revelation of mystery, an infallible guide of conduct, and unspeakable source of comfort."

Psalm 119:89-96 expounds of that statement. The Psalmist reminds us that God's Word is relevant to all of life for all of eternity.

This text teaches us three truths about the unparalleled nature of the Bible.

1. God's Word is timeless for it stands forever. (vv. 89-90)

Verse 89 is the central verse in the longest chapter in the longest book in the Bible. It is one of the great verses of the Bible. It conveys the amazing news that the Word of God has existed from eternity past and will continue to exist forever in the future. It was settled in the mind of God before the world was created then conveyed over time to men who wrote it down for us. It reveals God's thoughts, for how would we know what God is thinking unless He uses words to tell us.

The words *firmly fixed* (v. 89), *established* (v. 90), and *stands firm* (v. 90) are key. They declare that God's Word is permanent, cannot be moved, and is unchanging.

Just as a skyscraper can't be built unless pilings are driven deep into bedrock, so our lives must be firmly built on God's timeless Word. We must go deep if we want to go high. We live in unsettled times, shaky at best, but God's Word is firm, secure, and strong. It will stand the test of time. It is eternal. It remains true in every generation. It is eternal.

2. God's Word is priceless for it speaks today. (vv. 91-95)

The Psalmist moves from speaking of forever (v. 89) to speaking of today (v. 91). He reminds his hearers that God's timeless Word is also God's priceless Word for the following reasons:

- A. *It gives delight* (v. 92). God's Word provides joy to the hearer for when we live according to His instruction we find strength and help for our walk, even in the midst of afflictions. God's Word delights for it teaches us how to live. God's Word speaks direction into our steps.

- B. *It gives life* (v. 93). God's Word provides the source and secret of life. It revives the brokenhearted and downtrodden. It restores the fallen. It breathes a fresh beginning for each day. God Word created life and it recreates life in those who receive it. When God infuses His Word into our life, refreshment and rejuvenation come into our being.
- C. *It gives salvation* (v. 94). God's Word provides deliverance and healing to those who seek after God through His Word. This salvation is both eternal—in the spiritual realm—a saving from our sins, and physical—in the daily realm—a saving from our enemies. This salvation comes as we seek God's Word. The verb *sought* (v. 94) means to consult, to inquire, to beat a path, to read repeatedly. When believers beat a path to the Bible, read it over and over, study it, and consult it carefully, allowing it to speak into our daily lives, God will provide deliverance and discretion to live powerfully daily.
- D. *It gives protection* (v. 95). God's Word provides a shield and shelter against the assaulting enemies that seeks to destroy God's people. The protection comes as we contemplate or consider God's Word. *Contemplation* indicates a thought through and fixed decision. A decision that comes as one allows God's Word to speak into their lives.

3. God's Word is limitless for it sees no bounds. (v. 96)

In contrast to the limits of humankind, God's Word has no limits. Only God is without limits. God alone is endless. And, so is His Word for it is not bound by time, generation, race, culture, or circumstances. God's Word give a total view of life, death, and eternity. It never becomes irrelevant, outdated, old-fashioned, or behind the times.

The Psalmist began this stanza of his great poem with the word *forever* and he ends it with the words *without limit*. God's Word is not dictated by time, it's eternal; and, it's not dictated by space, it knows no bounds. There is no limit to what God's Word can do. In fact, God's Word exceeds anything we can imagine. God's Word is wider than anything we can see and deeper than anything we can grasp, higher than anything we can understand, greater than we can comprehend.

With this understanding of God's Word, what must we do?

- A. *We should stand on God's Word*. Because it is God's Word, and not merely the religious opinions of certain men and who lived thousands of years ago, it is completely trustworthy. While skeptics and unbelievers have sought to destroy the foundation of God's Word, it has stood strong against attacks and assaults. Because it stands, we should stand on it by trusting it, obeying it, and living it.
- B. *We should allow God's Word to speak into our life*. When we begin to see God's Word as the Psalmist described it in this stanza, we will read it, study it, and practice it. It is the source of life, health, salvation, and promise. It has words of wisdom and life that can and will speak into our lives, if we allow it.
- C. *We should go to God's Word for instruction*. No situation or problem is outside the bounds of God's Word. Therefore, we turn to it for hope and help; guidance and support.

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