

Our Unshakable Foundation in a Shifting World

Our theme miniseries on **“God’s Word, Our Unshakeable Foundation.”**

It’s a theme perfectly suited for these troubled times. We need a foundation that cannot be shaken by world events or personal circumstances. We need a place to stand during the hard times that come to all of us sooner or later.

We’re living in an age of constant change. Technology advances at breathtaking speed. Cultural values are shifting at a hectic pace.

What was considered stable a generation ago is now questioned, redefined, or dismissed altogether.

Even institutions once thought unmovable—governments, economies, families, churches—often feel fragile and uncertain.

Many People Today Feel as Though They Are Standing on Moving Ground. Anxiety rises because nothing seems fixed. Truth feels negotiable. Morality appears flexible. The future feels unclear.

Yet into this unsettled world, **the Word of God** speaks with calm authority and unwavering certainty:

It tells us this Word is powerful, active, penetrating, and transforming.

God describes His Word in arresting imagery through Jeremiah.

“Is not my word like fire, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29)

And the writer to the Hebrews adds:

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.” (Hebrews 4:12)

Here is Scripture testifying to the power and authority of God’s Word.

Last Sunday, Psalm 19 showed us God’s Word was more valuable than the purest gold and sweeter than the purest honey.

This morning we turn to one of the greatest Psalms in the Bible, **Psalm 119**.

If you ever take on the challenge to read the entire Bible in a year (a challenge our ladies gave to the congregation), get ready when your reading guide says your only reading for the day is Psalm 119.

When you turn to this Psalm you will discover that it is the longest chapter in the Bible with a whopping 176 verses!

Boy, would I love to have someone send me a message saying, “Pastor Alex, I accept the challenge. With God’s help, I will attempt to memorize Psalm 119 this year.”

Every verse of this Psalm, (with one or two exceptions) contains a direct reference to the Bible.

The psalmist uses at least nine different terms to describe God's Word: its law, testimonies, judgments, precepts, statutes, commandments, ordinances, promises and word.

The prince of preachers Charles Spurgeon, mentions an amusing story about a man named George Wishart, the first Episcopal bishop of Edinburgh, who during the 1600s was sentenced to death by hanging.

On the day of his execution, the pardon he had been hoping for had not yet arrived. It was a custom in those days to allow a condemned man to call for the singing of a psalm before he was put to death.

Bishop Wishart, stalling for time, called for the singing of all of Psalm 119. As the story goes, before the psalm was 2/3 sung, the pardon arrived and Wishart was spared. **God can use His Word to deliver His servants.** Sometimes by changing circumstances—and always by strengthening faith.

Psalm 119 was written by a man who despite his many troubles, truly loved God's Word. He found in it everything he needed—life, light, hope, help, salvation, deliverance, encouragement, joy, rebuke, correction, restoration, peace, and every other spiritual grace.

Pray that our generation would develop a similar love for God's Word.

Our text today, Psalm 119:89 and 90 and 105, begins with a powerful declaration. **Take a listen!**

“Your eternal word, O LORD, stands firm in heaven. Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created.” (Psalm 119:89–90)

And again:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

These verses remind us that while the world shifts beneath our feet, God's Word remains our unshakable foundation, firm, faithful, and fully sufficient for life today.

It Is God's Word - Eternal

“Your eternal word LORD is eternal; stands firm in heaven. Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created”

The New International Version reads the verse this way: *“Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.”*

The English Standard Version says, *“Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.”*

The King James Version is very similar: *“Forever O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”*

The Bible Is Not Antique or Modern. The Bible Is Eternal. This is the theme of Psalm 119:89.

The first thing we learn from this verse is that we're dealing with God's Word. The psalmist calls it **“your Word.”** We may tend to take this for granted, but it's actually a very crucial fact. A word is really a revealed thought. You wouldn't know what I was thinking unless I used words to tell you.

Likewise, we're left totally in the dark about what God is thinking unless He uses words to tell us. Note that the psalmist uses the singular **"word,"** not the plural **"words."**

The difference is crucial. He says **"your word"** is settled, not **"your words"** are settled. The plural would not be wrong. It's perfectly appropriate to speak of the **"words"** of God. But here he uses the singular to refer **to all** that God has said as one declarative **"word"** from heaven.

All that God has said, every verse and every word from Genesis to Revelation, is God's **"word"** to us.

What the Bible says in Genesis is just as true as what it says in Judges or Song of Solomon or Romans or Revelation. There is no part of the Bible that is "more inspired" or "more true" than some other part.

We believe that what the Bible teaches about history or geology or geography is true in every respect. We reject the notion that God's Word could somehow contain human error. It's all true down to the tiniest detail.

This is what the Christian church has generally believed and preached across the centuries.

I'm so grateful for a congregation here at FBC that holds firm the Bible is absolutely authoritative and true in every part.

Away with those who chop up the Bible and say they only want the **"God of love"** of the New Testament, and want no part of the "God of war" of the Old Testament.

And away with those who regard Genesis 1-11 as mere myth and legend.

We humbly accept all the Bible as the Word of God and attempt to the best of our ability to read it all, to believe it all, and to obey it all. If it is God's Word, we can do no less.

God's Word Is Eternally Settled in Heaven Verse 89

The psalmist does not say God's Word will stand firm or might stand firm. He says it stands firm—**right now**, already settled, already established.

It's a Word that is not shaped by culture. It's not revised by public opinion. It's not updated by new philosophies. **It's settled in heaven**, which means it is anchored in the very character of God Himself.

What is settled in heaven cannot be undone here. **And His Word has not shifted one inch since.**

This is deeply comforting for believers today when truth feels blurred and voices compete for our loyalty.

The word **"settled"** means to be firmly fixed so that an object cannot be moved. Before a skyscraper can be built, pilings must be driven into the ground, sometimes 60 or 80 or even 100 feet below the surface until they finally hit bedrock.

You must go deep if you want to go high.

Otherwise, the building will be unstable and unable to stand in all weather conditions.

To say that God's Word is "settled" means that it is driven down deep into the bedrock of heaven. **Nothing that happens on earth can change God's Word in heaven.**

God's Truth Cannot Be Overturned.

It can be doubted but it cannot be defeated though millions have tried to across the years.

Before his death in 1778, the French skeptic Voltaire predicted that within 100 years Christianity would no longer exist because thinking people would completely reject it.

In one of the delightful ironies of history, less than 50 years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society was using his printing press and his house to produce stacks of Bibles for the people of Europe.

Skeptics do their best, but they cannot overturn God's Word. **It remains settled forever in heaven.**

We Should Not Be Overly Worried by the Skeptics.

The skeptics will always be with us. From New Testament times, some have doubted the resurrection of Christ and others who attacked the Virgin Birth.

Across the centuries skeptics have doubted the miracles of the Bible, assailed the deity of Christ, and mocked Christians for having a religion based on superstition.

Like Voltaire, they have predicted that modern science and the advance of human knowledge would render Christianity obsolete.

Countless times the Bible has been declared dead, its death knell rung, its funeral arranged, its epitaph carved, and the final words spoken. **Yet somehow, the supposed corpse refuses to remain in the grave.**

Though the Bible has been scrutinized, sifted, and relentlessly vilified, and though today there are some people who make a living attacking Holy Scripture, the Bible survives every challenge.

Today more than two billion Christians unite in proclaiming their belief that God's Word is true. When the hammers of unbelief are worn out and discarded, the anvil of God's truth remains.

God's Word Is Faithful Across Generations Verse 90

"Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created."

God's Word is not only eternal in heaven—it is faithful on earth.

What God has spoken continues to prove true in every generation.

The same Word that sustained Abraham still strengthens believers today.

The same promises that guided Israel still comfort the Church.

The same gospel that transformed the early Christians continues to save sinners in our time.

Cultures rise and fall. Empires come and go. Languages change. Customs evolve. But God's living Word remains relevant because God remains faithful.

Every generation faces new challenges, **but not a new God.** And therefore, we do not need a new Word.

This is especially important for the Church today. We're often tempted to believe that Scripture must be reshaped to fit modern thinking. But Psalm 119 reminds us that it's the Word that shapes generations, **not generations that reshape the Word.**

We do not preserve Scripture because it is outdated. **We cling to it because it has never failed.**

This is bad news for those who insist we need a "new morality" for the 21st century. Some people think the Bible is too outmoded and too time-bound to be useful in dealing with the complexities of modern life.

God's truth is the same today as it has been across the centuries. We don't need new truth; we need to believe and obey the old truth.

Since God's Word is forever settled in heaven, we can breathe easy.

But there's also a solemn warning for us to consider in this regard. If God's truth remains the truth in every generation, we're not free to pick and choose the parts we personally like. We don't have the freedom to say, "I'll take that part about grace and love, but I think I'll skip the 'Thou shalt nots.'"

God's Word is not a smorgasbord where you have a little love, a bit of happiness, an extra helping of good times, but you pass on the obedience and skip the suffering.

If we say we believe God's Word, then we must deal with all of it, **all the time.**

It Is God's Eternal Word

The final thing we learn from verse 90 is that God's Word is eternal. The word translated "*forever*" means "everlasting, perpetual, forevermore, unending." **It continues forever.**

It means what God has said has always been true, is true now, and will be true forevermore. There will never be a time when we will wake up and discover that God's Word is no longer true.

None of us can make a statement like that about our own words.

Not so with God. **There is no delete button on His computer.** He never has to change His words, revise His opinions, or edit His commands. They are settled forever in heaven.

God's Word Is a Lamp for Daily Living Verse 105

Psalm 119:105 brings the truth of God's Word down from heaven to the path beneath our feet:

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Notice the imagery. A lamp does not flood the entire landscape with light. It illuminates just enough for the next step.

God's Word often works the same way. It may not reveal the entire future, but it gives us clarity for faithful obedience today.

Growing up, we had no electricity in our little home, and I learned quickly the value of an oil lamp on winter nights, especially when trying to navigate in the dark to the outhouse, with the wind howling in from Belfast Lough.

In a culture obsessed with instant answers and long-range certainty, **Scripture teaches us to trust God one step at a time.** Praise God we can say with assurance.

His Precious Word:

Illuminates our decisions

Exposes hidden dangers

Reveals Jesus to us as the Saviour of sinners

Tells us *“by grace we are saved through faith and that not of ourselves.”*

Keeps us from wandering into the “far country” like the prodigal son.

Instructs us in righteousness.

God's Word Is a Light in a Darkening World

Light is only necessary where there is darkness. Psalm 119:105 assumes that the path ahead is not naturally clear.

Yet darkness does not overcome light. Light overcomes darkness.

The Word of God does not merely criticize the darkness—it pierces it. It reveals truth, offers hope, and points us to Christ, the Light of the world.

The Church's calling is not to dim the light to blend in, but to hold it higher so others can see the way.

When believers live by the Word, we become reflections of its light in a dark world.

Jesus called John the Baptist **“a burning and shining light.”**

We're not called merely to admire the Bible, but to trust it. Not just to quote it, but to obey it. Not simply to defend it, but to live it.

Conclusion: Standing Firm and Walking Faithfully

“Our Unshakable Foundation in a Shifting World” is not found in human wisdom, cultural approval, or personal strength.

It's found in the eternal, faithful, illuminating Word of God.

Firm in heaven. Faithful through generations. A lamp for our feet. A light for our path.

When everything else shifts, God's Word stands.

When the way forward seems unclear, God's Word guides.

May we be a people who stand firmly on the Word—and walk faithfully by its light.

May we be a people shaped, strengthened, and sustained by the unbreakable power of the Word of God.

Kingdoms rise and fall, armies do battle, rulers come and go, fads and fashions grip the imagination, years turn into generations and generations into centuries.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

But God's Word stands. It is settled forever in heaven.