

# PRESERVATION MATTERS

## YOUR PART IN GOD'S PROMISE TO PERFECTLY PRESERVE EVERY WORD

*"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."*

~ Hebrews 2:1

### 1. Preservation Problems

- a. Inspiration → God's words put in a book. (The words of God? Is it perfect? Authority?)
  - i. Problem: Bibles differ. Manuscripts differ. Texts differ. Editions differ.
- b. Unwise Christian notion: God's words without error in the original manuscripts
  - i. Problem: We do not have the original autographs of Moses, David, Peter, Paul.
- c. Unwise Christian notion: Every word inspired, but now every word doesn't matter
  - i. Problem: Inspiration w/o preservation results in losing every word of God.
- d. None of these are problems for those who believe preservation of every word matters.

### 2. Every Word Matters

- a. Words change and no one cares (a book unread is the same as a book unsaid)
- b. Every word does not matter to the unbeliever, novice, natural minded, careless believer
- c. Every word matters because they are tied to God's name - Ps 138:2, 146:6, Jn 17:6-8
- d. Every word matters because they give us life - Luke 4:4
- e. Every word of God is pure (how would you know w/o preservation) - Prov 30:5

### 3. Perfection Matters

- a. "Man does nothing perfect." Rom 3:4,23 is true, but so is Eph 4:12, 2 Tim 3:17
- b. Men err, but God can work in us to inspire perfection and keep it. 2 Pet 1:20-21
- c. Perfecting requires making little changes to align with what is perfect (God)
- d. Precision in preservation can be helped with better technology (print press, computer)
- e. God commands perfection. Though we are not, his word can be. Matt 5:48, Ps 12:6-7

### 4. Faith Matters

- a. Faith matters in preservation - Acts 3:16, Rom 10:17, 1 Thess 2:13, 3:10
- b. James says keep the whole law means every point - James 2:10
- c. Keeping the words tied to the right heart toward God - 1 Kings 8:61, 1Chr 29:19
- d. Keeping the words for John meant the love of God is perfected - 1 John 2:5
- e. Today, charity is the bond of perfectness - Col 3:14
- f. Today the perfect is here, but Christians do not live like it - Eph 4:13
- g. The perfect word has been given, not treating it as such is a lack of faith.

### 5. Profit Matters

- a. Every written word preserved is pertinent to our profit and perfection. 2 Tim 3:16
- b. Keep my words (keep = preserve, guard, care for, protect) - Prov 4:4, 7:1
- c. A blessing for those who keep the things written - Rev 1:3
- d. Your sanctification tied to the preservation of God's words - 1 Th 5:23, Phi 1:9-10
- e. Paul knows he will be preserved, because of God's words - 2 Tim 4:18 cf 1:12-13
- f. Your spiritual growth/life matters for the preservation of God's words.

## **6. Your Role Matters**

- a. Preservation is not a finished work. It will not be until the end - Ps 119:89, Isa 40:8
- b. David saw his life purpose in keeping the words of God - Ps 119:17, 57
- c. You have a role to play in preservation. Let God's word work in you. Keep his words.
- d. Your work in preserving the words of God is not for salvation but is your service.
- e. To believe the words, is to be mindful to keep the words - 2 Pet 3:1-2
- f. If we are not careful, words of God can slip, changed, damaged, lost - Heb 2:1
- g. They will not be lost from all and everywhere – God promised to preserve his words.
- h. Our attention to hold, keep, protect, perfect his words shows a love of God's words.
- i. His preserved words in a book used by us. You play a part to keep them.