

## **PRESERVATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

Psalm 12:6-7  
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### **INTRODUCTION:**

Perhaps one of the most controversial and yet necessary discussions concerning the word of God deals with the issue of preservation and ultimately, translations.

God's promise to preserve His word is found all throughout the scriptures and perhaps no statement is any more powerful than what we find in this Psalm.

Let's look at the Psalm in its context. It is a Psalm of contrasts. It contrasts the godly with the ungodly and the words of the Lord with the words of men.

The Psalm focuses on the promises of God noting that because of the oppression of the poor and the sighting of the needy that he "would arise and set him in safety."

He would do this because his help was the promise of His ever-present word as an antidote to the words of the wicked. It is the perfect word of God that is likened unto purified silver from a refining furnace. In David's day silver purified seven times was 100% perfect and pure silver.

God's word is not only perfect; it would endure forever, and be given to every generation.

Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

Remember that there is a difference between the words of men and the words of God.

Jeremiah 44:28 "Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words shall stand, mine, or theirs."

It is a wonderful promise from God to every believer that he will preserve His word to every generation.

### **THEREFORE, WE MUST EMBRACE THE PRESERVATION OF GOD'S WORD**

#### **WHY?**

##### **I. THE ISSUE OF DIVINE PRESERVATION V. 6-7**

I firmly believe that if we do not get a grip on the translation issue we are heading for problems in Christianity.

Let me share with you the problems that we have if we do not believe in divine inspiration and we continue to embrace every translation as authoritative.

### ***One, confusion and controversy arise over the word of God.***

It is possible; in fact, it is reality that people in many churches are confused about what the Bible says because so many translations are different.

In a practical way, you can see the danger of people holding different Bibles and asking, "What does your Bible say?"

Additionally, memorization becomes a problem because there is no standard translation and no one knows whether what is being quoted is accurate or not.

### ***Two, expository preaching becomes a challenge***

In fact, expository preaching has already taken a major hit. Who can tell which is the right translation to expound or whether the passage is accurate or not.

The more I become exposed to the contemporary church growth movement, the less impressed I am with it. The preaching is not expository or "thus saith the Lord," it is nothing more than "feel good psychology" based on the most readable passage of scripture.

### ***Three, the authority of the word of God has been called into serious question***

When no one knows for sure where the word of God is or what it says, they are not likely to believe and obey the word of God.

The goal then, is to be able to tell you confidently that this is the word of God and it can be trusted for all matters of faith and life.

Let me give you just one illustration out of hundreds that I could share with you regarding modern translations, which for the most part are nothing more than commentaries.

In The Message, a modern translation, Psalm 32:1,2 says, "Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be - you get a fresh start," while the KJV says, "Blessed is he whose transgressions is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

One writer said about The Message translation, "Forgiveness of sins has degenerated into getting lucky with God."

## **II. THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVINE PRESERVATION V. 6-7**

Psalm 12:6-7

As we come back to our text for a moment and we think about what is happening in David's life, we are reminded about why preservation of the scriptures is so important.

Inspiration is "God breathing his very words to men who were able to record them with the aid of the Holy Spirit."

Preservation means that God is able to preserve those words for every future generation.

Let me share with you just two of many thoughts that I believe stress the importance of preservation.

***First, preservation confirms the love of God v. 6-7***

Every promise and principle of the word of God is important. What the Lord said to David needs to be recorded so that I am aware of his revelation.

I think that in a practical way we need to be reminded that the words of men fail and mislead, but the words of God as is his character never fails. God is all about preservation. He has preserved the sun and moon's pattern of coming up and going down at the same time every day, and if he can do that then he can preserve His word.

Think of it this way, if God gave more accurate words to Moses than he gave to us, then there would be a hierarchy amongst the family of God.

Every word that was given to Moses was given to us. Moses received those words by revelation (the inspired words of God were given to him on Mt. Sinai) and given to us by preservation.

God loves us as much as he loved Moses and he wants us to know the same thing about him as Moses (or any other child of God knew).

***Second, preservation fulfills the promise of God v. 6-7***

There is a second reason that preservation is important, and that is simply that God promised that his word would be preserved and it would stand forever.

Here are several verses that prove that point and underscore God's promise.

Psalms 119:89 "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Matthew 5:18 "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

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

Let me give you a practical explanation of this process of preservation. One of the professors in a Bible college who has done a great deal of work in this area shared this with me. In Mark 14:9, Jesus said in regard to Mary's anointing him,

“Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.”

Here is what happened:

Inspiration - what she did will be written down

Inerrancy - it will be written down accurately (*In Greek*)

Preservation - it will be preserved in Greek over the years

Translation - it will cross language barriers

Infallibility - the translations will be correct or infallible

Preservation - the translations will be preserved throughout generations

### **III. THE INSTRUMENTS OF DIVINE PRESERVATION V. 6-7**

Psalms 12:6-7

I am sure that this will raise some questions in your mind, and I understand that. You will notice that I have not made this an ugly attack on translations, as that is not my intent. I believe that once you become convinced that God has preserved His word, you will also be willing to let God show you where His word is.

The question that certainly needs to be answered is, "If God did preserve His word for all these generations, than how did he do it?"

#### ***First, God providentially preserved His word through the guidance of the Holy Spirit v. 6-7***

It only makes sense to me that if God can give the word, then he can also preserve His word.

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

#### ***Second, God providentially preserved His word through godly believers throughout history v. 6-7***

This is a fascinating study and thought. God raised people up, godly people, with gifts and abilities to preserve His word throughout every generation.

This should not surprise us as the Bible speaks to this as well.

Psalms 68:11 “The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.”

Be thankful that you have a copy of the inspired, inerrant, infallible, divinely preserved word of God.

### CONCLUSION:

We have an authoritative word from God that can be trusted in every situation and for every issue that a man will face.

You can trust it in matters of salvation, eternity, and every issue that you face in life.

I read this week this little quote and want to remind you that it is not enough just to have the word of God, but we should be reading it, studying it, and living it as well.

John Richard Green wrote, "No greater moral change ever passed over a nation than passed over England during the years which parted the middle of the reign of Elizabeth from the Long Parliament. England became a people of the book, and that book was the Bible. It was read at churches and read at home, and everywhere its words, as they fell on ears which custom had not deadened, kindled a startling enthusiasm.

As a mere literary monument, the English version of the Bible remains the noblest example of the English tongue. But far greater was the effect of the Bible on the character of the people. Elizabeth might silence or tune the pulpits, but it was impossible for her to silence or tune the great preachers of justice and mercy and truth who spoke from the Book. The whole temper of the nation felt the change. A new conception of life and of man superseded the old. A new moral and religious impulse spread through every class."