

*"Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven, Your faithfulness endures to all generations, You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all are your servants...I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad"* (Psalm 119: 89-96).

Our poet has made the transition from the dark perplexity and despair wrought in the midnight of his temporal circumstances into the rock solid comforts of the eternal word of God. It is settled, fixed, unchanging, never varying. It is not liable to updates, or accommodations that may arise from the whims of men and their changing mores. It always has been the same, and ever will be. The constitution and subsistence of the universe rests upon this fact.

It is settled in heaven, out of reach of terrestrial powers, the fluxes and transitions of history. Men vainly debate "values", "fairness", "equity", "rights". They are ever criminalizing this and legitimizing that. Words become tainted and fall out of favor, are euphemized with new words which also are soon soiled, for evil men are ever corrupting everything, and loathe to face truth. But God's fixed truth is never moved from its eternal realities.

God's word communicates His faithfulness, His trustworthiness, His immutability. What He has said arises out of what He is. He has set the course, given us a fixed compass bearing, and locked the helm on destinies that cannot be deviated.

This intransigence of God's word is equally firm to all generations of people.

None who went before us found reliable truth anywhere but here. None who come after us shall have any better guide than has come from the mouth of God. None have had, nor shall have, any advantage over the other, but are all equally accountable to this one standard. Nor does it change in its force among living generations. It means exactly the same to young and old, children, parents and grandparents. There is no "generation gap".

Nor does God's fixed word apply only to rational creatures, men and angels.

It also applies to every living creature, from the tiniest microbe to the giant of the forest. They all come into being, live, produce and die according to His law. It also applies to the elements and "natural laws" of the universe. Sun, moon, and stars move in their courses according to His decree. Laws of physics obey constantly. Seasons and cycles take their cue from His word and obey. Up and down, hot and cold, black and white, east and west, yes and no, have never nor will ever change. All discovered "laws" are none but God's servants according to His word. All nature serves and obeys Him. It is because of this we can have order in our own personal lives.

According to verse 93, God, by His word, has given us life. Paul tells us in Romans 7:10 that God's law was ordained to life. It cannot give us life: Only God can do that, but it ordains life. All that we know of life, sense, light, sight, hearing, feeling, knowing, understanding, communication comes by God's decree (John 6:23).

The fixed word of God is exceedingly broad. It is comprehensive and covers everything. Nothing is out of its reach. Nothing is left to chance or

men's preferences.

Even those "preferences" are ordered by Him.

The consummation of all these perfections foreshadowed and displayed in God's commandments, precepts and judgments are found in none but Jesus Christ. All that it decreed, brought into existence and ordered finds its true fulfillment in Him. So shall we.

*-C. M.*