

The Purity and Permanence of God's Word

“Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Your precepts. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth....the righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting” (Psalm 119:140-144).

“Very pure”. The word of God is distilled, not only in the exclusion of all possible impurities, inaccuracies, and shortcomings: All the superfluous has been removed. Men's attempts to cover all facts, contingencies and relevance to a subject rambles endlessly through tons of documents, and still fail to accomplish their purpose. The ten words from Mt. Sinai are extremely brief, yet they were imminently comprehensive of a law to order the moral and devotional life of Israel. The full revelation of God in our Savior, the New Covenant is given to us in concise terms, pregnant with wisdom and guidance for all the issues of life, ministered to us, not in letter, but in Spirit.

The rightness and perfection of God's testimonies are timeless. The vagaries of men, changing cultures, variations of ideals in differing societies make absolutely no difference whatever. These may, and do, produce differing theologies and philosophies of men through the years, but truth and righteousness remain the same.

God's revelation does not merely contain truth: It **is** truth. What a thought this is! What an answer to Pilate's question! The *way*, the *truth*, and the *life*, are all inseparable bound up in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The effect of this upon us is gripping. We love this pure, concentrated word. It is sometimes bitter in the mouth, but always sweet in our being. Its power always transcends the difficulties accompanying it, so that we yet cleave to it until it brings to us that peaceable and joyous fruit of righteousness.

His word **diminishes** us! That pompous giant of self is deflated and dethroned. “I must decrease that He may increase”. “let God be true and every man a liar.” “That You might be justified in your sayings, and might overcome when You are judged.” “That every mouth may be stopped and all the world guilty before God.” “I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ.” “To live is Christ.”

In spite of this profound effect of the word of God upon believers, the enemies of God have forgotten His word. They have first broken it, then despised it, and finally lost all knowledge of it. In such a world with such conflict we lose all self-consciousness, and are taken up altogether with God and His word. We occupy the position of one very, very small. In the eyes of this world we are ignored, almost non-existent; in our own eyes, unimportant and insignificant.

Trouble and anguish will catch us, assail us. Yet none of this will sully our delight in God's truth. In spite of all, our life shall flourish in Christ, and in the understanding given to us by the righteous God

-C. M.