

THE WONDER OF GOD'S WORD

"Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore doth my. soul keep them: The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. {Psalm 119: 129-130}.

These two verses embody two matter-of-fact statements. The statements are absolute and incontrovertible. Whatever may be the length of human history up to now, they have never been successfully gainsaid. And the number of witnesses to their consistency increases every hour.

First, we are told that God's word is wonderful. God's testimonies are absolutely true, fixed and unvarying. Over the millenniums of the recording of divine revelations, not a single account clashes with another. Evil men unrelentingly assault them with all the means in their power, without ever making a blemish in their reputation. The rule of their veracity permits no exceptions or mitigation.

Another thing wonderful about these testimonies is that they were given to us.... to all of us. These are not some secret counsels, made available only to a privileged few who merited them, but to whoever senses their need of direction, counsel and light. None need stumble around in stupid speculation and dark confusion. God's testimonies are as quickly available to him as the most astute scholar. Therefore men have nothing but their pride, stubbornness, and wicked unbelief to blame for their darkness and delusions.

Their effects upon us are wonderful. They contain information, truth, counsel, warnings, guidance and instructions. Furthermore, whereas other would-be sources of counsel lack power to motivate, to secure compliance, God's words do not. For we who seek them and hear them, they transform, change our courses, and give life, comfort and joy. Laying hold upon us through the soul, the mind is informed, the affections are stirred and the will is effectually provoked to loving, joyous obedience. God's testimonies invoke a wonder in the human soul that never dims or becomes commonplace. Indeed, the novice wonders immediately, but not fully. He who knows these testimonies best wonders most. This indeed is a wonder that will equal eternity in its glories.

The second matter-of-fact statement is the very entrance of God's word gives light. As God said, "Let there be light" in the beginning, so does his word, from the very beginning, flash light through the soul of man. They open the heart and lay hold on our attention. God's word is ever the introduction to life. But this wonderful word must make *entrance*. Except they make entrance into our hearts we "stumble at noonday as in the night" (Isaiah 59: 10). There is no understanding in the stony heart unpenetrated by God's word. But once it has made its entrance there is no hindering its effectiveness. The "simple" the unsophisticated, untrained and unschooled, understand and reap its bountiful fruits as quickly as the scholar. How immeasurable blessed then are we whose hearts have been opened to the word of God! - C. M.