

The Enduring Word

1 Peter 1:22–25 (NKJV)

²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because *“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,* ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

The Word of God has been under attack since the very beginning.

It was the first area of attack by Satan in his attempt to deceive the woman.

Genesis 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

One of his primary goals is to persuade people to question and then to deny His word.

The attacks have been even more forceful.

The first Roman emperor to try to destroy the bible was Diocleation, who erected a monument commemorating the destruction of Christianity.

Soon in church history the Bible was a forbidden book even by the Catholic church.

John Wycliffe was put to death for translating it into English.

Later William Tyndale also was put to death for publishing Bible in English.

The liberal will not destroy the Bible.

The Woke crowd will not write it’s epitaph.

Our ancestors put their trust in it’s message and so can we.

I. The Word of God is the Truth

A. Many today are like Pilate who asked sarcastically, “What is truth.”

1. I hear people say she or he spoke her truth.

2. Wouldn’t be great if we all could have our truth.

a. I go to the bank to find out my bank balance only to find out I am broke, according to them.

b. But I say that is your truth by my truth says I have a million dollars.

c. To which they reply, just try to spend it.

3. Or as Ray Comfort puts it, “When someone says there is no absolute truth, you should ask is that absolutely true?”
4. Romans 3:4 (NKJV)
 - a. 4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.”
- B. A proper translation of the truth then, would be “the true teaching from God” or “the true teaching about Jesus Christ” or “the true words about Jesus Christ” or “the teaching about Jesus Christ which is true.” *Daniel C. Arichea and Eugene Albert Nida, A Handbook on the First Letter from Peter, UBS Handbook Series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1980), 45.*
- C. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)
 1. 13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

II. The Word of God lives

- A. Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)
 1. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
 2. The point is to show the exalted nature of the life that is in us believers, the life that makes us brethren in the divine sense: we all have been begotten of incorruptible seed by means of God’s living and abiding Word. *R. C. H. Lenski, The Interpretation of the Epistles of St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1966), 73.*

III. The word of God abides forever

- A. Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)
 1. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
- B. Not as the grass
 1. 1 Peter 1:24 (NKJV)
 - a. 24 because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,

2. The simile is true: all that man is proud of in his earthly existence, beauty, strength, wealth, honor, art, education, learning, virtue, achievement, greatness, is but the bloom of the grass and no more. *R. C. H. Lenski, The Interpretation of the Epistles of St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1966), 74.*

C. The testimony of the word.

1. Psalm 119:89 (NKJV)
 - a. ⁸⁹ Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.
2. Isaiah 40:8 (NKJV)
 - a. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”
3. Matthew 5:18 (NKJV)
 - a. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.
4. Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)
 - a. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
5. 1 Peter 1:25 (NKJV)
 - a. ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.
6. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)
 - a. ¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

IV. Some personal examples

A. Robert G. Ingersoll

1. He used to travel across the nation giving lectures against Christianity and the Bible.
2. A couple of his lectures made it into print. One was the Mistakes of Moses.
3. He made the predication that within 15 years the Bible would be in the morgue.

4. I remember hearing Erwin Lutzer preach a message about this.
 - a. He said he went to the Chicago library and checked out the book. It had not been check out for years.
 - b. Then he called the biggest book stores in Chicago and asked if they had any copies of the Mistakes of Moses by Robert Ingersol. No was they answer each time. Never heard of it, couldn't get it.
 - c. Then he would ask, "Do you have any Bibles."
 - d. Amen

B. Lew Wallace & Ben Hur

1. What turned that fragmentary story into a sweeping saga was a chance conversation. In 1876, Lew found himself in a train compartment with Robert Ingersoll, a superstar of the day—a sought-after speaker and America's foremost agnostic. Ingersoll enjoyed grilling new acquaintances about their faith. Lew had considered himself a Christian, but he didn't go to church, didn't pray regularly and barely knew the Bible. He was embarrassed by Ingersoll's questions. He felt he should know more about his faith. And he decided that the best way to educate himself would be to write a novel set at the time of Christ, about a young man whose life is changed by Jesus. *From - Posted on Jul 26, 2016*
2. "Wallace's attitude toward religion was, in his words, "absolute indifference." Then on a two-hour train ride he found himself discussing the topic with noted agnostic Robert Ingersoll. They discussed the existence of God, the devil, heaven and hell. Wallace, who made it clear he had formulated no opinion on the subjects, reported that Ingersoll poured out a "pungent excoriation of believers in God, Christ and heaven." "Strangely enough, it was these "most outright denials of all human knowledge of God, Christ, Heaven, and the Hereafter" which stimulated Wallace's pursuit of truth. "Was the Colonel [Ingersoll] right?" Wallace wrote. "What had I on which to answer yes or no? He had made me ashamed of my ignorance: and then ... as I walked on in the cool darkness, I was aroused for the first time in my life to the importance of religion." <https://news.ag.org/Features/There-is-a-God>

C. Voltaire predicted that within one hundred years the Bible would be a forgotten book. Within less than a hundred years his own home was owned by the Geneva Bible Society, from which millions of Bibles were sent out to all parts of the world.

D. William Ramsey

1. He set put to disprove the Bible by proving that the book of Acts could not

have been written by Luke in the first century.

2. I may fairly claim to have entered on this investigation without any prejudice in favour of the conclusion which I shall now attempt to justify to the reader, On the contrary, I began with a mind unfavourable to it.
3. In fact, beginning with the fixed idea that the work was essentially a second-century composition, and never relying on its evidence as trust worthy for first-century conditions, I gradually came to find it a useful ally in some obscure and difficult investigations.

The word of God has perpetual existence forever and ever. And it will not return to Him void.