

Mining In God's Word

Text: Psalm 12:6-7

Theme: The Precious Word of God

Intro:

1. In the passage before us we are going to be looking at the precious Word of God under three main headings.
 - a. The purity of God's Word
 - b. The preservation of God's Word
 - c. The prospecting of God's Word
2. Many people simply don't take the Bible seriously, and that goes for many Christians too. Of course, we say that the Bible is immeasurably valuable, but we don't read it in that way. This morning I want to encourage you to have an enthusiastic and teachable approach to your Bible reading.

Main:

- I. The Purity of God's Word (Vs 6)
 - A. The Word of God is pure
 1. The words of the LORD.
 - a. Notice that it says, the words of the Lord.
 - i. This is not just stating that the Bible is pure, but that every word that God speaks is of this same pure character. But for now, we will focus in on the written Word of God, the Bible.
 - b. The word 'LORD' is in all capitals, which means the name 'Jehovah' was used here referring to God as the eternal, self-existent One. God, who is eternal in existence, and self-existent by nature, His words are pure and will never pass away.
 - i. In fact, it is because God himself is eternal and unchanging that his Word is eternally true and unchanging.
 2. The purified word of God
 - a. The word 'pure' indicates a straining process.
 - i. When metal is purified, the junk which has to be separated from the molten metal is called dross. The metal is put into a crucible and placed in a furnace which produces extreme heat, melting the metal and burning the waste materials. Dross, or the junk, sits on the top of the liquid metal like a

skin on warm milk, and it has to be strained out of the mix in order to remove these impurities.

- b. While the word of God doesn't have any impurities that need to be removed, the verse likens the Word of God to metal that has already undergone this process and is, therefore, free of useless junk.

- i. In days gone by, people used to have brass mirrors which were plates of brass that had been polished until they produced a reflection. The purer the metal, the clearer the reflection.

- ii. It is because the Word of God is pure that it can give us an accurate reflection of our own lives before God.

James 1:23-25 "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

B. The Word of God is tried

1. The refined Word of God.

- a. The word 'tried' indicates two things. The first thing it indicates is the process of purging. When a metal is purified it is often the extreme heat that removes even the small contaminants from the metal.
- b. The Word of God is as pure as silver, which has been purified in the fire seven times. That's a lot of purifying and the product must be very clean indeed.

2. The tested Word of God.

- a. The second thing spoken of by the word 'pure' is that the Word of God has been put to the test and has not failed or been broken.
- b. The Word of God has withstood the tests of time and the attacks of the sceptics and is still perfect in its entirety.

Scripture has passed through:

Persecution	Criticism		Opposition
Attempts to corrupt it			And centuries of attack,

Yet it remains pure!

- II. The Preservation of God's Word (Vs 7)
 - A. The Word of God is kept
 - 1. The guarded Word
 - a. The word 'keep' refers to hedging something about for its protection.
 - i. God is the One who hedges His Word about. He is the One who will keep wicked men from being able to destroy His Word.
 - ii. No matter how many people have tried over the last two thousand years, none of them have been able to destroy the Bible.
God has kept His Word.
 - 2. The preserved Word
 - a. The Word of God has not only been protected from evil men, but God has preserved it in its purity until today.
 - i. God has maintained the purity of the Bible. We believe that the King James Bible which we hold in our hands today is more than just a rough copy of what was originally spoken by God. The King James Bible doesn't just "contain" the words of God, but it actually "Is" the Word of God in the English language.
 - ii. Men have come up with other so-called translations and such, which the Devil uses to keep people guessing about what God's Word actually says, but we are confident that we still have the Word of God in its purity in the King James Bible we use today.
- III. The Prospecting in God's Word
 - A. The Word of God as silver (Vs 6-7)
 - 1. The purity of silver.
 - a. I'm sure that all of you will have seen something made of silver at some time in your life.
 - i. Silver is a precious metal and, when it is purified and properly polished, it has a bright light-reflecting finish to it.
 - ii. It is only natural that, when we see something that has such purity to it, we stop and admire it for its beauty.
 - b. Even a bar of purest silver still has a tiny imperfection somewhere in it, but the Bible has no such imperfections. It is pure and perfect in its entirety, from Genesis to Revelation.

1. If I went out to a field with a metal detector, and I set it to detect gold and the detector went off like crazy and I knew I'd scored big, and then I got you to come out to help me dig it up, how keen would you be to dig up that chunk of gold!?!? You'd be super excited, and so would I. But if I handed you a Bible and said, "There it is! The biggest gold mine you'll ever see, and all you have to do is start digging." How excited would you be? I bet you'd be a bit underwhelmed.
2. Remember how I said at the beginning of this study that many Christians don't take the Bible seriously? Well, that's because they don't genuinely see the Bible as a mine of wealth just waiting to be discovered. All they see is an old book with some helpful stories and very little more.
Well, you've got your Bible, now what are **you** going to do with it?