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The Grass Withers

#1322-A

Series: What the Word Says About the Word

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Father, thank You for giving us so many blessings. Grant us we pray, great confidence in the One who is sovereign, even our God. Take this word this morning and make it come alive.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

If I were to ask you if there is a word that seems to typify this age, probably that word would be “change.” We are into change. If everything is changing, we are happy because we think it is surely changing for the better, don’t we? Technology is zooming by us so fast. Communication is advancing so rapidly. And if you have your cellular phone, turn it off. You understand what I’m talking about. Medical science is attacking the problems of age and illness with such intensity that society has begun or continues to place its focus and its hope on what man can develop rather than on what God has done.

We are so enamored with change. We assume that transition equals transformation. We assume that innovation means improvement. We assume that acceleration equals accomplishment. If you can do it faster, you must be doing it better. If you don’t believe it, look at the computer ads. Before long, they will have it where you don’t even have to turn them on, they are that fast. Old values are no longer acceptable. Old methods are no longer acceptable, even if they are better. If it isn’t new, it doesn’t work.

Nothing is sacred. Moral absolutes that held nations together and families together have been abandoned because they represent the old way of doing things when men were bound by values rather than by gratification. The whole world is on edge, anticipating the next major change, as though progress somehow means emancipation.

Now the downside to that is, if everything is changing, nothing is absolute, nothing is constant. What are we going to

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cling to? How do we know whether what we are giving our lives *to* or what we're giving our lives *for* is even going to matter a few years from now?

Man has an old cliché that says, "Nothing is sure but death and taxes." Do you remember that? I would like to challenge that statement and make you think about it. I'd like to re-word it if I may this morning.

Statement 1- Neither death or taxes are sure. Hello? As for death, it is true that the Scripture says,

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrews 9:27 NKJV)

But, that appointment can turn into an event. For the Bible also says,

O, death where is your sting? O, Hades [grave], where is your victory? (I Corinthians 15:55 NKJV)

Death changes its meaning for those who have given their life to Christ, and even physical death is not necessarily a certainty for all. Because one generation of believers is going to be going about their business, and suddenly they are going to hear the voice of the archangel and the trumpet will sound,

And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive *and* remain [wouldn't it be great if it were today?] shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we shall always be with the Lord.

(I Thessalonians 4:16b,17 NKJV)

So death is a reality, but it is not a sure thing.

Neither are taxes. Now be careful. They are a painful. They are controversial. They seem to be necessary. But taxes don't affect all men the same in all countries. And besides, one of these days, taxes will be a thing of the past. This is not a political statement; don't read anything into that. I don't mean in this present age. There is a time coming when there will be no need for taxation because we will enter into that glorious era when

...the government will be on His shoulders.

(Isaiah 9:6b NKJV)

What a day! He will graciously provide all our needs. There

will be no electric bills because “the glory of the Lord will provide the light.” There will be no hospital bills or funeral bills because “there will be no death, no sorrow, no sighing or no crying.” And there will be no taxes because this will be a theocracy when the One who rules will become responsible, not only to maintain order, but to provide even the mansions we live in. What a day! So death and taxes, beloved, are not sure things.

Statement 2- But that doesn’t mean that there aren’t any sure things. There are two and a half things that are unchangeable in this world—two and a half that will never change. The half thing is *the sin nature of man. It will never change until God does away with it and with Satan in the age that is to come.* Until then, all the technology in the world will only give us new ways to defraud man and to dishonor God. All of the new moral decrees of our “age of enlightenment” as I think they call it, will only help justify our sinfulness, and lead to a world where there is more deceit and more injustice and we will do it in the name of moral freedom.

No, man is not going to change. His basic sin nature is not going to change. It hasn’t changed since Eve went through the Eden Cafeteria line. You remember? God stopped her when she got her tray. He said, “Eve, you can have anything you want and you can eat as much as you want and I will pay the bill.” Now I don’t know about you, but that is a little better deal than most of us have when we go into the local cafeteria. “But by the way,” God said, “there is one plate of food over there that you can’t touch.” Eve got in the line and that’s all she could think about, “I want that. I want that. I want that.” She ate, she fell, and since that day, we’ve thought and acted just like her. Apart from divine intervention, that is the heart of man. With all of our modern inventions, and with all of our modern intentions, we will still *choose* to sin. So sin is the “half” of a sure thing. Apart from God it will never change.

The other two things are sure, without exclusions. *God and His Word will never change.* Never. Not tomorrow. Not next year. Not in the endless ages of eternity yet to unfold will one single aspect of the nature of God change, weaken, decay, or fail. And because His Word is nothing more than the perfect expression of who He is, He has promised us that it, like Him, will be the same, even beyond the end of time into the infinite reaches of

eternity.

Think about it. His Word will not weaken. It will not end. It will not change direction. It will not change its meaning. It will not lose its power to redeem, to transform, to encourage, or to direct. It cannot lose anything or be changed by anything, because if it could, it would not be what it claims to be.

So there really is an anchor in this crazy world we live in. There really are absolutes in this age of moral compromise. There really are some promises that you can stand on, that you can base your life on. There is one thing and only one thing God has told us is a sure thing. And yet most of us live as though we need to hedge our bets. Most of us live where we invest some time in that Book, and we even make some decisions based around what that Book says, but most of us live as though that Word may not be totally relevant to everything we do in this changing, rebellious world in which we live. We live as though sin has outrun God.

Now you think about it. Are there any new problems that are not mentioned in the Book? Moral decay and gay rights are not a new problem. Have you ever read Genesis 13 through 19? Even the United States, with its race toward moral decline hasn't reached the depths of Sodom. God had a plan for Sodom. God has a plan for the United States. You can read all about it. It's in the Book.

Economic decline and a struggling economy are not new to this age or to this administration. Have you never read Genesis 41-47? God often has a Joseph for times like that, but such times are not new. You can read all about it. It's in the Book.

Social injustice? That's not new. Even the senseless slaughter of babies is not new. Read Exodus, chapters 1 and 2. The horror of ethnic discrimination is not a recent development. Read Exodus 1. The crisis in the Mid-East is not recent. The players and the issues span thousands of years.

Now you think about it. Child abuse, murder, rape, sexual discrimination, slavery, harassment, unjust employer/employee relationships and unfair taxation, the Bible deals with all of them. There is nothing new under the sun. God's Word was

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written to so span the ages of time that it would be as fresh the day Jesus returns as it was the day Moses descended from that mountaintop with the non-revised, non-leather bound first edition of the Book of books. It was a little heavy to carry compared to today's pocket Testaments, but what was in it would never change. And as God added to it and completed it, even up to John's faithful writings on the Isle of Patmos, it would remain an inerrant, immutable, faithful reflection of a God who would be the same yesterday, today, and forever. You got it? So relax.

This world can change all it wants. We can race each other to new technological heights, at the same time wallowing in the slime-pits of moral decay that always accompany the prosperity and self-centeredness of man. The truth of it, beloved, there *is* an anchor. There *is* stability. There *is* something that will never, ever change. By God's grace, let's come to rest the weight of our lives on the one thing that is consistent, and consistently faithful.

So with that little pre-sermonette, we lead our way into the next to last lesson in our study on, *What the Word Says About Itself*. One thing it says it quite clear. It is infallible, both in terms of duration and endurance. Psalm 119 alone says this,

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

(Psalms 119:89 NKJV)

Do you want a memory verse? Do you want a short memory verse because you have a short memory? There is one.

Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants. (Psalms 119:89-91)

Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them [how long?] forever.

(Psalms 119:152)

Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endures forever

(Psalms 119:160)

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The Scripture, beloved, is an accomplished fact. It is not something God may add to or alter because He has this feeling come over Him or because there is some modern crisis that didn't get dealt with. He doesn't need to alter, add, or edit. "Forever it has been settled in heaven." Now listen, man can change what he thinks of it, but God will never change what He meant by it. Man can change his response to it, but God will never change His intent of it. Man can blaspheme it, burn it, laugh at it, scorn it, bend it, and deny it, that will only prove man to be a fool. It will not hurt this Book. This Book is invincible. Satan's designs to discredit it, destroy it, and diffuse it have only strengthened it, affirmed it, and released its power in a thousand new ways. "Forever, it's been settled in heaven." Do you believe that? Say amen!

That's the way it has always been. It was true from the beginning. God didn't refine or edit it along the way. He didn't have a word processor with a delete key. He didn't need a laser printer to do a printout so He could scratch and make changes. He didn't write it as He went so He could see how man was going to turn out. Even before the foundations of the world, this Book was settled in heaven. As each word was spoken, it was the final edition. Now you think about it. Who but God could do His first draft in stone? The Word of God! If only Christians around the world, if only Christians in this city, in this church, could return to understanding what we hold in our hands when we hold in our hands this Book. It is everything.

Now what is so special about it? Today I want us to take nine attributes of the Word of God and perhaps you will want to memorize those attributes and some of the Scriptures to remind you in the days to come of where your priorities ought to lie. Here are nine things about this blessed Book. Forgive me if I get excited along the way.

1- The Word of God is complete.

Psalm 119:89 just told us,

Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

(Psalms 119:89)

I'm not sure we really grasp that, but here is an example. Some guy from Osh Kosh comes up to you and says, "I just

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got a new revelation from God that adds to the Scripture,” and he forms the Osh Kosh Church of the New Age. You just tell him, “I’m not interested in Osh Kosh, B’Gosh.” If some guy in California says, “God hit me with lightning and told me to add this to the Scriptures, so I’ve formed the La Vista Seminary of New Truth,” you tell him, “Hasta la vista, Amigo.”

It’s what Proverbs 30:6 means when it says,

Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:6)

It’s what Revelation 22:18-20 means when it says,

For I testify to every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God will add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

(Revelation 22:18-20)

Amen, indeed. The world thinks this Book isn’t finished. It is! It’s complete. Nothing can be added to it. Nothing can be taken from it. It is the perfect expression of the I AM. You cannot add to it any more than you can add to Him. Amen?

Not only is it complete but:

2- The Word of God is totally inspired.

Not some of it—all of it. II Timothy 3:16 says, “Most Scripture?” No, it doesn’t say that. It says,

All Scripture is God-breathed. (II Timothy 3:16 NIV)

Does anyone know what the word “all” means? You do, don’t you? It means the same thing every time God uses it. It means “all.” It means without exclusion. Matthew 5:18 says,

For verily, I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18)

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What that means, beloved, is that genealogies are inspired. It means the biographies are inspired. It means the books of poetry are inspired. All of it. It is one book and one author. You can either take it or leave it, but you don't try to pick and choose what you think is inspired. That's what Satan did to Eve in the garden. He said, "Hath God said? Maybe it's in your Bible, Eve, but gimme a break, in this age?"

God's Word is a complete meal. It is not a smorgasbord to pick and choose from. You can't opt for partial inspiration any more than you can accept Jesus as a good man, but not the God-man. Either He was God or He was the biggest imposter that ever lived. He claimed to *be* God. In the same way, you can't take a book that claims itself to be inerrant and complete and perfect, and accept parts of it as such. Either it is what it claims to be, or it is the greatest fraud ever perpetrated on man. All or nothing. That has been the beginning of the demise and the downfalls of denominations and churches and Christian groups down through the years. They came to one part they didn't think they could handle and they said, "Well, all of this Scripture is true but this." My friend, from that point on, it was downhill all the way. The truth of the matter is it is either all or nothing. God said it is "all." Amen?

But that's not all.

3- The Word of God is inerrant.

Not only is it totally complete and totally inspired, it is also totally without error. Psalm 119 says,

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

(Psalm 119:160)

The law of the LORD is perfect [complete], converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple [that's us].

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

(Psalms 19:7-9)

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You may be sitting there thinking to yourself, “Yeah, but what about such and such passage? I don’t understand that one.” There may be something you don’t understand, but there are no errors. There may even be something you think looks like an apparent contradiction, but it is not. You see, beloved, either God is true, or God is a liar. If He is true, and He says every word, every jot and tittle is pure, then it is. Every prophecy made thus far has been perfect from the day Christ would die, to the way Christ would die. Every prophecy yet to be unfulfilled *will be fulfilled exactly as God said it would* because this book is inerrant. It contains no mistakes. What you do not understand, you take by faith, but you do not begin to question its accuracy. God wrote it. That’s all you need to know.

4- God’s Word is immutable.

Not only is it complete, totally inspired, and perfectly inerrant, it is immutable. It cannot change. Psalm 111:7 says,

The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. (Psalm 111:7,8)

What that literally means is, if God said homosexuality and adultery were grievous sins, they still are. God can’t change His mind about holiness. You say, “Yeah, but these are the 90’s. Times have changed.” Guess what? God’s been through the 90’s before, and in 690 and 790 and 1290 and 1690, before and since Christ came. What’s acceptable to man comes and goes. What’s acceptable to God comes and stays. Don’t you see? “It is written” is written in indelible ink. You can stand on it. It will never let you down. You say, “But what about my unbelieving friends? They don’t buy that.” They’re not supposed to.

But the natural man does receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (I Corinthians 2:14)

Neither, indeed, can he, without the indwelling Spirit to discern and illuminate truth. But, beloved, if you are a believer, you can take it and stand on it!

5- It is profitable and practical.

It wouldn't make much difference if the Bible were complete and inspired and inerrant and immutable if it was just a book. But II Timothy 3:18 says that every bit of it is God-breathed,

...and is profitable [for what?] for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect [become spiritually complete] thoroughly furnished [lacking nothing] unto all good works.
(II Timothy 3:16,17)

Let me put that in simple terms. That means it will teach you, touch you, turn you, and train you until you have the mind of God. Not only is it perfect, it's perfectly practical. Everything you need to know to live is included in the Book. Everything you need to avoid is explained in the Book. Everything you need to make a marriage work is in the Book. Everything you need to know to build a church is in the Book. What do you do when you're depressed? It's in the Book. How do you cope with disappointment? It's in the Book. How do you face death? It's in the Book. How do you face life? It's in the Book. It's not just a doctrinal textbook, though it contains doctrine, it is a living workbook and it works.

6- It is powerful.

Not only is it profitable, totally complete and inspired, perfectly inerrant, immutable, and practical, it is filled with the actual power of God. You remember,

For the word of God is living, it's alive and powerful, it's active, it's sharper than any two-edged sword...dividing even to the soul and the spirit, the joints and the marrow; discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart.

(Hebrews 4:12 paraphrase)

Not only can the Word of God show you truth; now think about this, it can actually enable your mind to *receive* truth because it is alive. Not only that, but it can actually *teach* your mind to discern truth because it is alive. It can actually *energize* your spirit to allow the Holy Spirit to transform that truth into action because it's alive. It's powerful. It's able to dig into the recesses of your heart and expose who you really are. It's a sword in the hand of God so sharp; it can actually divide

the soul from the spirit. It can separate the you that you are apart from God, from the you that you are in Christ, and show you the difference. Nothing else can do that.

7- It cannot diminish or decay.

Not only is it complete, inspired, inerrant, immutable, profitable, personal, and powerful, it is non-degenerative. It can't weaken with age or diminish with time. That's crucial. One of Satan's greatest lies has always been, "Oh, the Bible was really a force in the 1600's." Oh, really? Or "Oh, the Bible really made a difference in the old days." Oh, really? Then maybe we ought to believe it like they did. The problem, beloved, is with us, not with God. People act as though the Word was powerful at one time, but something happened and, like man, it got old. They act as though Satan soaked it and the color got bleached out, or the fabric came apart. I've wondered about pastors who take this Book and use it as a jumping-off place for sermons, and then deny that it's infallible. That confuses me. Why would you use a worn-out tool, if there were something better? There isn't anything better. There isn't anything else! That's what Psalm 111:8 meant a while ago when it said,

They [the Scriptures] stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. (Psalms 111:8)

8- The Word is indestructible.

It is complete, inspired, inerrant, immutable, profitable, personal, powerful and non-diminishing, but the question is, is there anything man can do or Satan can do to take it away from us? Can we wake up one day and it will be gone? The answer is, "No." The enemy can burn it, ban it, and bury it. He can drive it underground and drive the people underground who hold it in their hearts, but it will always come back.

Even in this "age of enlightenment" we live in, I believe the real warfare going on in the heavenlies has to do with this Book. I believe the opposition is going to come from a generation of men and women who pretend to be open to all things, but in essence are open to all things but this Book. It is possible that even though the Iron Curtain has been lifted for a season in Eastern Europe, the "Intellectual Curtain," if you will, will fall even in this country, making the reading, buying, and broadcasting

the truth become increasingly difficult, if not impossible.

But I want to tell you something today, beloved; no one can stop this Book. When the Iron Curtain was lifted in Russia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and so many other nations, there were still remnants, pockets of believers who had their faith, and who had this Book. Some of them just had it buried in their hearts. Others had a tattered, torn, battered copy that was hidden from the authorities. But it stood. Somehow, God will always protect this Book. Luke says it best,

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall
not pass away. (Luke 21:33)

In other words, this world as we know it is going to vanish and burn, but still this Book will survive. It is indestructible.

9- Lastly, the Word of God is eternal.

It is complete. It is inspired. It is inerrant. It is immutable. It is non-diminishing. It is profitable, personal, and powerful, and indestructible. But not only that, beloved, it is the only thing that is eternal. It is eternal for two reasons. Think about it.

1- It is the only thing you own that goes before the beginning of time and after the end of time and explains what life is, because those things are known only to God and He wrote it. So not only does it teach us how to live today, it teaches us how God spoke the worlds into being, how He breathed into Adam the breath of life, how He took from Adam's rib and created Eve. It goes beyond that and it tells us what will happen when this world as we know it ceases to be.

It tells the beginning. It tells the end. It tells us that one day the trumpet of God will sound and the dead in Christ will rise. It tells us that one day the King will come in all His glory, His saints with Him, to end the tyranny of the enemy once and for all. It us tells us about an era of peace. It tells us about a new heaven and a new earth. It is perfect. It is accurate. Streets of gold? Absolutely. A marriage supper of the Lamb? Positively. A judgment seat of Christ? Yes. It's all there, because the God who wrote it is the One who will bring it to pass. When you read the papers today, you will find somebody that predicted all this stuff that was going to happen this year. There will be banner headlines: "10% Of It Came to Pass." Hoorah. My friend, God

has never missed. Everything He ever said would happen has happened. He can tell us what happened before time was, and He has told us what will happen once time ceases to be. The Word of God is eternal.

2- The second proof that it is eternal comes from the fact that only the Word of God reaches into the human spirit and produces eternal fruit, because God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. So the Word of God is spiritual. That means it goes beyond the intellect into the spirit of man and, if you allow it to, it will actually produce fruit that is only good in the spiritual realm, and only redeemed in heaven. Nothing else can do that because nothing else is eternal.

God's purposes are eternal and He never misses His target. You and I get confused, don't we? We pray, "Oh dear God, take this away from me." When what we're asking Him to take away is the very thing He allowed us to have to change us into His image. The reason is the Word of God can do its work in that setting. Isaiah 55 you remember says,

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not [never] return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:9-11)

The Word of God. It has eternal understanding. It produces eternal fruit. It doesn't seek to reinforce our prejudices, it seeks to remove them and replace them with the perspective of God, and it never returns void. It always goes where God wants it to go. It always does what God wants it to, when He wants it to, just as the rain and the snow do.

So this Book we so often hold in our hands, place on our bookshelves, toss on the back seat of the car, or forget and leave in the foyer of the church, is more than a book. It is complete. It

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is the finished Word of God to man. Nobody can add to it. Nobody can take from it without taking from it its authenticity and its authority. It is totally inspired. Every word is God-breathed. Every word, every sentence, is part of the whole. You can't take part of it and reject part of it without denying God's authorship of all of it, because He is the One who said all of it was perfect. It is inerrant. It is without error. What you do not understand, you must understand that the Author does. Trust Him. And if and when you need that issue resolved, guess what? He has provided you with a personal interpreter, His Spirit, who says He will guide you into all truth. In the meantime, you take the 99% you do understand and you pour it into your life until it changes your life. Every word is true. Every prophecy is exact. You can stake your life on it. God did His.

Not only is His Word complete and inerrant, it is immutable. It can never change with the times, because being eternal is perfectly suited to the times, whenever they are. Because the manifestations of sin in the world may look different, beneath the surface lies the same sin nature of man, and the same price has been paid.

It is practical. It is personal. It is the answer for all of society's problems, the church's problems, and the believer's fears. It is powerful. Not only can it confront a life, but it can evoke change in a life. It will never diminish or decay. It cannot be destroyed. It is the eternal Word of an eternal God who is Spirit and who interprets that Word spiritually with the intent that we should actually be changed. Wow! What a Book!

It is finished. It is perfect. It is everlasting. Nothing can be done to improve it, add to it, or make it more appropriate. It is the only perfect thing you will ever own. Use it. I don't mean now and then. I mean use it the way God intended you to use it. Let its awesome power overcome your sin nature and convict you. Let its Spirit-breathed wisdom give you direction. Let its magnetic authority draw you back into the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. Beloved, you hold in your hands when you hold this Book in your hands, the greatest single commodity ever made available on planet earth.

Forget your interactive computers. In the Star Trek generation, should God tarry, the most advanced electronic

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hardware ever devised will never be able to separate the soul from the spirit or discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. Forget the lifelike images they are promising on the high-resolution televisions in the years to come. I know where you can get a book right now that is actually alive and powerful. I don't mean lifelike. I mean alive. Think about it. When you take hold of its truths, the Author of the Book actually comes out of the Book and energizes you to respond. Now that's interactive.

You already own the most dynamic, most efficient, most transforming piece of software ever written. It will never become obsolete. You will never have to upgrade to 1.3, or a newer version. It will always be perfect. Nothing else will be and nothing else will last. Not this earth. Not its technology. Not its art. Not the monuments it is building to itself in bricks and mortar. Not even the history books it is writing about itself for a tribute to itself. But *one thing will last*. Don't you think, given a choice, it makes sense to invest in that one thing? I would like to finish this subject by looking at I Peter 1:22-25. Peter is explaining to us Isaiah 40. He is putting it in context. He says,

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever,

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth [is going to go ker-plop, that is the original Greek ha], and its flower thereof falleth away:

But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word by which the gospel is preached unto you.

(I Peter 1:22-25)

As you go through your day today, tomorrow and next week, ask yourself over and over this question: "Is what I am investing my time and my life in, ultimately going to last?" Your job is important. Do a good one, but it isn't eternal. Your house and your yard are important, but they aren't eternal. That project you are so pouring your life into to further your career is vital, but it isn't eternal. Your golf game may be important to you,

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but believe me, it isn't eternal. One day your house is going to burn and it won't matter how much insurance you have. All the insurance companies will have burned, too. Your car will disappear, stereo and all. Your computer will never compute again. Your golf game will be nothing more than a space in time consumed by something you chose to give your life to. But this world as we know it will cease to be.

Only two things are eternal, beloved, never forget it, the Word of God and people. We are to pour our lives into loving one another with a pure heart, fervently, pouring this Book into their lives as we do, with the intent that they be born again through the incorruptible seed of the Word of God.

Just like the grass in your yard come winter time, and for some of us even sooner, this world is going to wither and die. Your dreams of greatness are going to wither and die. Your ambitions of glory will wither and die. Your checkbook, your stocks, your investments will be gone. But not this Book, it will abide forever. And this is the Word by which the gospel is preached unto you. Don't have time to lay it on your heart? You can't be serious. Don't have time to meditate on it day and night? You've got to be kidding. Don't have time to stop and focus on what it is saying to you so you can obey it implicitly? Come on; get real. Everything else is going to wither and die. But the Word of the Lord will endure forever. Dear friend, memorize that. Review it. And by God's grace, live like it for the rest of your days. If you do, I can guarantee you they will become the best of your days for sure. Amen?

Let's pray.

Our gracious God,

What a promise what a Book, what a God. We have our answer. We have something that will never, ever fail. I will endure forever. Dear God, may we live like it.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Grass Withers

An Assignment to Apply This Lesson

“Be Not Hearers Only...”

1- Make a “thread” to memorize called “The Grass Withers.”

Use the verses in this lesson as a place to begin. If you would prefer, here is one you can use as a model:

- a) Psalms 119:89
- b) II Timothy 3:16
- c) Matthew 5:18
- d) Hebrews 4:12
- e) Luke 21:33
- f) Isaiah 55:9-11
- g) I Peter 5:24,25

2- As you meditate on those verses this week, ask God to open your eyes that you might behold wonderful truths about the Word itself.

Focus on Luke 21:33 and I Peter 5:24,25 as a plumb line to measure the effectiveness of how you spend your time. Do you really believe that heaven and earth as we know it will pass away? Do you live like it? Name three non-essential things you invested your life in this week that will not last. Compute the time spent on those three things. Now list the actual amount of time you spent a) pouring the Word into your life and appropriating it and b) pouring your life into others, using the Word as your guide.

3- Draw up a list of priorities for next week

One week only. Write them down on a piece of paper. Try to assign yourself:

a- A set of objectives where the Word is concerned

- Make a commitment to place ____ verses on your heart.
- Set _____ specific times to be alone with God to meditate.
- Make a plan to review ____ verses you already know.

- Set ____ hours of study time to search the Scriptures yourself.

b- A set of priorities

List the things you spent time on this week that were expendable (see #2), and assign those times to your new priorities. Make a covenant with God not to do any of the things that are less important until you have done the primary things...those which will last forever.

4- Ask God to give you the grace to redeem the time.

He will.

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