

Psalm 119
week 4, v. 89-90

How many things in your life are certain?

Psalms 119:89 begins our 12th section of eight verses.

Ps 119:89 Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.

Think of the word forever. How would you define it?

<owlam> the vanishing point; generally, time out of mind; eternity, everlasting, without end

forever: for a limitless time; endless time; without interruption; eternally, everlasting, evermore, perpetually WordWeb

After looking at these definitions of the word forever, what things could you describe as truly being forever?

Psalms 119:89 says God's word is forever settled or established in heaven. *Family Bible Notes* explains it this way, [Thy word] is established in God's presence beyond the possibility of change.

Mt 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

Isa 51:6 "Lift up your eyes to the sky, then look to the earth beneath; for the sky will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die in like manner, but My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness shall not wane.

Ge 9:16 "When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

Ps 103:15-17 As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. ¹⁶ When the wind has passed over it, it is no more; and its place acknowledges it no longer. ¹⁷ But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children,

Thy purposes are all settled above, and they shall all be fulfilled below. Adam Clarke's Commentary

God's word and counsel are unchangeable, they stand forever the same. How does this truth affect you? The world we live in is constantly changing.

Its ideals seem to change as easily as the seasons. Stability is a blessing and God's children have the promise of stability in God, His word and the fruition of His plan.

What happens to comfort and happiness that is found in the world? Compare that to the comfort and joy found in God's promises.

Col 3:1-4 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

1Pe 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to [obtain] an inheritance [which is] imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Amidst all his suffering and the uncertainty of his days, where does the Psalmist go for comfort? Think upon the constancy of God, the faithfulness of God and the certainty of God. When things change all around you, is this where you are anchored?

The next verse in this section continues with the encouragement of our security in God.

Ps 119:90 Thy faithfulness [continues] throughout all generations; Thou didst establish the earth, and it stands.

faithfulness <'emuwneh> literally firmness; figuratively security; morally fidelity.

firmness: the quality of being steady or securely and immovably fixed in place; firmness of purpose, resoluteness WordWeb

security: the state of being free from danger or injury; freedom from anxiety or fear; protection WordWeb

fidelity: the quality of being faithful; faithfulness

Moral fidelity is faithfulness to the principles of right and wrong, conforming to standards of behavior and character based on those principles. In other words, God's character cannot change, He is absolutely the same always.

In what ways does knowing and understanding God's faithfulness encourage you?

Ps 89:1-2 I will sing of the lovingkindness of the LORD forever; to all generations I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth. ² For I have said, "Lovingkindness will be built up forever; in the heavens Thou wilt establish Thy faithfulness."

La 3:22-23 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. ²³ [They] are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness.

2Ti 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.

Ps 36:5 Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Thy faithfulness [reaches] to the skies.

Just in these few verses we learn that God's faithfulness is forever, it is secure. God's faithfulness is great, meaning it is abundant in quantity and quality, it is exceedingly sufficient. God's faithfulness is dependent on His perfect character, not our imperfect selves. God's faithfulness is infinite.

Psalms 119:90 says **His faithfulness continues throughout all generations.** It is the same for all time, for evermore. No matter if we lived in the time before Christ, no matter if we are living in the time of Revelation, God's faithfulness remains available to each of His children and is given in abundance to each of His children. His promises remain for all time.

When we think about generations following one after another, we are reminded of how things change and the passing quality of people and things around us. **Is there anything you have or anyone you know that won't eventually change or decay? Do your clothes wear out? Does your car look and perform the same as the day you bought it? Have you ever had food go bad?** We repaint, repair, replace, redo, reconstruct, remodel, refashion, restore, revive, realign, reapply, rearrange, reattach, rebuild, recapture, reconnect, reconsider, recuperate, rewrite, redirect, reinforce, reform, refresh, retry, refuel, regain, renew, reorganize, replenish. Everything is in constant change. This is opposite of God's faithfulness and His promises. Just as the earth stands where it was established, God's promises will remain fixed.

Ps 119:90b Thou didst establish the earth, and it stands.

The stability of the earth is the effect of God's unchangeableness, and the same unchangeableness is shown in the fulfilment of his word. Family Bible Notes

Ps 33:8-9 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

stood fast – continues, endures, is established, remains

Ecc 1:4 A generation goes and a generation comes, But the earth remains forever.

Nature fulfils thy purposes, thou givest fixity to its laws, and even so shall the plans and promises of grace abide forever. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

Ps 93:1 The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD has clothed and girded Himself with strength; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved.

When we see the world keeping its place and all its laws abiding the same, we have herein assurance that the Lord will be faithful to his covenant, and will not allow the faith of his people to be put to shame. If the earth abideth the spiritual creation will abide; if God's word suffices to establish the world surely it is enough for the establishment of the individual believer. Treasury of David

Unlike our waxing and waning faithfulness, God's faithfulness is as sure as the earth's foundation. His word will remain fixed and all of His plans will be seen through completion. What does this mean of His faithfulness towards His children? Is there anyone or anything that can change the course of God's direction? Do you stand firmly fixed on the security of your salvation?

Application Questions

What things in your life are forever? How settled are you? Is there anything in your life that does not carry the possibility of change?

How do your answers above compare to the description of God's word in Psalm 119:89?

What does the Bible say about God's word?

Matthew 24:35

Psalms 103:15-17

Are you able to find true stability in the world? Why or why not?

In what ways does knowing and understanding God's faithfulness encourage you?

Psalms 89:1-2

Lamentations 3:22-23

2 Timothy 2:13

Psalms 36:5

Think about the words conditional and unconditional. Use these words to compare your faithfulness and God's faithfulness. Why is this important?

How has this section of scripture encouraged you?