

Proverbs 30:4,5. ⁴ Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and the name of his son? Tell me if you know! ⁵ "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Our God is a shield to those who take refuge in him

1. Every Word of God is flawless

2. Our Lord uses his power to save those who are flawed

EVERY WORD OF GOD IS FLAWLESS. The Holy Bible, the Scriptures are the very Word of God and they are without error. The Word of God, every word of God, is flawless. Therefore the Word of the God from the book of Matthew 19:4 is without error. And so when our LORD Jesus speaks these words, it is something that we should listen to, believe, and obey. ⁴ ***"Haven't you read, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' ⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."*** When Jesus says these words we should listen and believe and align our thoughts and lives to the wisdom and knowledge of the eternal God. The Word of God is flawless. It is true. It is without error. The Word of God is God's Holy Word given unto man for our salvation and for our good. It is a light to our path, and a lamp for our feet. It shows us what we ought to believe and do. The Word of God is flawless.

Then why, oh why, do human beings fail to pay attention to it so often? Why do men and women, you and me included, think they know better than God? If the Word of God is flawless why do flawed human beings substitute their ideas and opinions for God's? For example if we have been given the flawless word of God which tells us what God intended marriage to be, why did the Supreme Court of the United States just rule 5 to 4 that same-sex marriage is good and proper for the people of our land. God's Word says "male and female". God's Word says, marriage should be honored by all. God's Word says "flee sexually immorality". God's word says, that homosexuality is unnatural and it is a sin, and just like every other sin it is detestable in God's eyes. (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26). Homosexuality is a sin that should be struggled against and repented of and not supported or promoted just as all other sin are to be struggled against and repented of. This is what God's Word says. These are words given to us by a holy, flawless, God; given to us in his wisdom and his love.

God has given us his holy, flawless, word but many in today's world have overruled it and discarded as flawed and outdated. And it is not just our land, but several countries have recently and warmly embraced such declarations. What is going on? As far as the

Christian, who knows what God's Word has to say, is concerned it may appear that the world has been tipped upside down, and this is just the latest and loudest example.

What is going on? In frustration and bewilderment and with feelings of helplessness we might wonder: Does God not care? Does he not care if the very fabric of marriage and family and society that he created and established is being altered and changed? Has he turned a blind eye toward this world? Has he lost control? Like those disciples in the boat who feared the worst when that horrible storm came up them, and who cried out to Jesus, "Don't you care if we drown?" In our fear and our weakness of faith we cry out to our LORD in a similar way. Does he not care that Christians who hold on to his word are being lambasted for being intolerant and unloving? Does he not care that children are being taken out of Christian schools because their parents are now offended by the so called "out of touch and bigoted" teachings of our schools and churches? Does he not care that young Christians in today's world are facing a confusing world that might lead them to doubt God's Word and their salvation through Jesus Christ alone? Does he not care that children, and families, and people of all ages are being spoon-fed lies that are in direct contradiction of his Word of truth? Does he not care that His dear children are being told that something is just fine for them even though He, our God and Father, has told us that this very thing was wrong and sinful and harmful to their faith? Does he not care that his children are being led down a dangerous path? What is going on? Does he not care?!

In the chaos of today's world, in the swirl of our emotions that we might feel in the stomach-turning wake of such an historic event, God lays these perfectly timed words of wisdom before us today in order to calm our troubled hearts, to give peace to our souls, to instill confidence in him so that we might find refuge and security and calm in him. Hear the words of God from Proverbs 30:5. ***"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."*** Our God cares. In love he gives us his Word which warns us of the wickedness of this world and prepares us for the disobedient and misleading ways that we will encounter here. But let us never forget that in His Word he also assures us of his enduring love even in the midst of all this trouble. In Matthew chapter 24 our Lord Jesus speaks to anyone who has ears so that we may hear his flawless Word, his words of warning and his words of love and promise. ***¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:10-14)***

While the hearts of this world may grow cold, God's heart still yearns for us his children. He cares. He promises that he is a blessed shield in whom we find refuge. He has given us his word so that we may know exactly who he is and what he wants us to believe and do. In his word, He brings us peace even in the midst of so much turmoil.

The Word of God recorded for us in Matthew 7 details for us Jesus' words of wisdom that we would do well to remember in tumultuous times like these. ***Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who***

built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” (Matthew 7:24-27)

In confusing and chaotic times like this, we can stand firm on His word. **Our God is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.** When the waves of public opinion come crashing against us. In a world where so many have been swayed and pressured and moved by the flawed thinking and the flawed emotions of flawed human beings, we can stand firm upon the flawless word of God. The opinions of this world are shifting sands, which come and go and have no lasting worth when they contradict the enduring and everlasting Word of God, because such ideas, such human and worldly opinions come from flawed human beings. As Christians we are built on the flawless Word of a flawless and holy God. We will stand firm against the assaults of this world. Standing on his Word we will not fall. We will not be overcome, because we are built on the rock.

As Christians we are built on Christ, we are built on his Word. The rock; this is a picture of stability and power. So too are the words that the author of this proverb uses to describe God. Listen again to these words that so are vivid and memorable and unquestionable in their description of God’s absolute power. ***Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and the name of his son? Tell me if you know! (Proverbs 30:4)*** The LORD is his name, and the name of his Son is Jesus, that is, the LORD saves. The LORD God who is the ruler of heaven and earth, who walked with Adam in the Garden and watches over all things from his throne in heaven, is our God. The LORD God, who gathered up the wind the hollow of his hands and gathers the waters in his cloak, is the one who controls the world, the weather, all things and everything. The LORD God, who established all the ends of the earth, is the one who came down from heaven to this very earth to save us.

Our God assures us of his power. He takes away our doubt and calls us to confess his name and praise his name. He established the earth and the ways of nature and he sent his Son to save those flawed by sin through his flawless Word. ***Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and the name of his son? Tell me if you know! (Proverbs 30:4)***

What wonderful peace and assurance the LORD gives us through these words for a number of reasons. He is in control. No matter what this world says, no matter the lies that are spewed forth from flawed societies and cultures of sinful people, no matter how often, or how loud, these lies are repeated, nothing can change the fact that there is only one who created the heavens and the earth. There is only who commands the winds and the waves to do his bidding. There is only one who established all the ends of the earth

and the ways of nature. His name is God. His name is Jehovah. His name is LORD, and the name of his Son is Jesus: the LORD saves.

The one who has the power to sweep away all those who oppose him, sent his son to save flawed human beings who often think and speak and act in contradiction to his Holy Word. The sinless Son of God came to this world of sin to pay for our sin, each and every one of them, each and every kind of sin. He came to cleanse us from our sin, to declare us holy and blameless in God's eyes by flawlessly fulfilling the words of God that promised his coming. He came in fulfillment of God's flawless words to be tempted in every way and be without sin in our place. He came in fulfillment of God holy Word to speak - in person - words of divine wisdom, instruction, and salvation that our God wanted us to have, and hear, and obey.

As we scratch our heads this morning at those who so openly contradicted the word of God, as our stomach's churn by this recent decision, as we stand in terror in view of this wave of lies that is sweeping over our nation and our world, let us also stand in terror and frustration in view of all the times that we have substituted our flawed opinions and thinking for the flawless word of God. We have ruled in favor of what we thought and felt was right, as we have justified our own sinful actions. We have failed to honor marriage perfectly. We have justified our own sinful lusts and desires. We have overruled God as we have treated his word with disdain and treated others with anger and hate. Time and again, wave after wave of disobedience has been stirred up by our thoughts, by our words, by our actions. Our God should ball up the wind and the waves in his hand and thrust them out to sweep us away as well. He should call upon the wind and the waves to devour this land, this world, you and me included, in another cleansing and destructive flood, but instead he uses his power to save. He sent his Son, Jesus, to save those who did not deserve saving.

And in his Word he reminds us of his name, he reminds us of the precious promises connected to his name. One such promise is included in a part of Scripture that we all probably know well. After he destroyed the world with a flood, God hung a rainbow in the sky to express his commitment to love and care for us. He promised that he will not destroy the earth again with a worldwide rush of wind and wave. He will care for the earth. He would preserve the promise of the Savior because he as cares for us. And the LORD our God, in his love will keep his promise to save us, to bring us safely through this world of sin and turmoil, and then he will come again to bring us to the joys of heaven. It is in these truths of God's Word that we find refuge and peace no matter what is going on in the world around us.

In the chaos of this world, as the winds of change shift and rip apart this world around us, we have the flawless word of God that holds us fast. ***“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*** Let us call on the name of the LORD. Let us believe, obey, and proclaim his flawless word in kindness and love. And let us trust and worship and praise our Savior, Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.