

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Psalm 1:1-6*

In 1914, Ernest Shackleton and a team of explorers set out from England to do something that no one before had accomplished—cross Antarctica from one side to the other across the South Pole. Disaster struck when the team’s ship, Endurance, became entrapped in ice and eventually sank after her hull was crushed. Marooned on nearby Elephant Island, there seemed little hope for their survival. In a desperate effort to get help, Shackleton and five others set out in a twenty-foot lifeboat across some of the most dangerous and storm-filled waters in the world. It was an eight-hundred-mile journey to South Georgia Island where help could be found. For fifteen days the men battled the treacherous seas and massive storms with waves of up to one hundred feet. Using only a compass and a sextant, Frank Worsley (who had captained the Endurance) navigated their course until they safely reached land and found help. Shackleton secured another ship and returned to rescue all of his men. He became a national hero in England for his courage and persistence.

The reality of life is that every day we are all are perilously making our way through treacherous seas. Ever since the first sin in the Garden of Eden, fallen humanity has struggled to make godly decisions and live godly lives. The only way to ensure that we do not go astray is to have an objective source of God’s truth that will guide us. Just as a compass can guide sailors through dark and uncharted waters, the Word of God can guide us through the hurricanes of the subjective truth of our day. We must trust God’s Word over our feelings, over our wisdom, and over contrary advice others may give us. And we can trust the Bible because the Word of God is inspired by God.

Dr. Ken Boa tells us “Only two things will last forever: God’s Word and people. We would be wise to invest one into the other, making sure that the remaining days of our stay on this planet will have optimal impact and lasting consequences on the lives of other people, leveraging the wealth of this world for eternal gain.” Our text for today will both teach us and remind us that we will never truly become spiritually mature in our walk with God and with one another - until our walk with God and our walk with one another is deeply and intimately and joyfully rooted in the Word of God.

God planted the Psalms in His Word to shape our hearts, minds and souls. The Psalms are songs and prayers in the form of poems. They are meant to be read, sung and prayed. If you read the Psalms only for theology, you will miss the point, because they are psalms - songs and prayers in the form of poetry.. One of the reasons the Psalms are deeply loved by so many Christians is that they give expression to an amazing array of emotions. More explicitly than all the other books in the Bible, the Psalms are also designed to awaken and shape our emotions in line with the guidance they give. What happens when you read and sing the Psalms the way they are intended to be read and sung, is that our emotions and our minds are shaped by these psalms.

We are shaped by the Psalms because they are inspired by God. They are not merely the words of man, they are also the word of God. What that means is that God guided what was written and arranged so that the Psalms teach the truth and, when properly understood, they give the right direction to the emotions. God means that the words of the psalmists are both man’s words and God’s words. What man expresses God is expressing for his purposes. Therefore, when we read and sing the psalms, our minds and our hearts — our thinking and feeling — are being shaped by God.

We see this in the way that the book of Psalms is structured. It is divided into five books that begin with Psalms 1, 42, 73, 90, and 107, and each collection of psalms has a special theme and a doxology that marks the end of each book. From the earliest times, these five divisions have been seen as a conscious effort to make the Psalms parallel to the five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), which are usually called the “law” books. Psalm 1 introduces the whole book of Psalms. Psalm 1:2 declares: “*His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*” The word for “law” is the Torah, and the general meaning for Torah is instruction. In other words, the Psalms covers the whole range of God’s guidance, not just law. The entire book of Psalms is introduced by a call to meditate on God’s guidance and God’s law.

“*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers*” (Psalm 1:1). This Psalm begins with the word “blessed” which is a Christian word, a spiritual word, a biblical word which does mean “to be happy or blissful” - but also speaks of a “deep sense of peace, contentment and well-being.” Jesus repeatedly used the word “blessed” to describe what it means to live your life for God in the Beatitudes. Psalm 1 tells us we are “blessed” when we refuse to engage in certain activities, and each described in terms of those who do them.

First, we are told that we are “blessed” when we “walk not in the counsel of the wicked.” The word “counsel” does bring to mind the word “advice” – Here it would mean giving counsel/advice regarding principles that would determine that person’s actions. Those who would be giving that counsel/advice here are “the wicked” which literally means “the ungodly” or in other words, those who would reject God by rebelling the principles of God. And so we are “blessed” when we do not take the advice of those whose principles are contrary to the principles in God’s Word.

Second, we are “blessed” when we do not “stand in the way of sinners.” In the first instance our attention was drawn to the ungodly principles by which the “wicked” live. Now, when we “stand in the way of sinners” we are *expressing* and *practicing* those ungodly principles – which the Bible calls “sin.” This is what we read of in James 1:14-15: “*Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*” This is the “way” of sinners - in that the term “way” is used frequently in Psalms and Proverbs regarding one’s lifestyle, habits, pattern of thinking and behaving. We are “blessed” when our “way” – our lifestyles, habits, patterns of thinking, and behaving are *not* like the ungodly.

Third, we are “blessed” when we do not “sit in the seat of scoffers.” To “sit in the seat of scoffers” is to not only to reject God and God’s Word; and embrace and live out ungodly lifestyles, habits, patterns of thinking and behaving - but also to “scoff” at (ridicule and criticize) those who *are not* walking in the counsel of the wicked nor standing in the way of sinners. We are “blessed” when we do not join in with the chorus of worldly criticism of those who have rejected God. We are “blessed” of God and by God when we refuse to walk, stand and sit in “ways” that reject and rebel against God and God’s Word.

In Psalm 1:1 God’s word tells us that we are “blessed” by what we don’t do. Prohibitions are not punishment, but a divine protection. Adam and Eve were given great liberty in the Garden of Eden but they ended up being forbidden to eat of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Now we know why. Had they obeyed God’s warning; life would be much more glorious for us today. Isaiah 55:8-9 says our “ways” are not God’s “ways” - and so if we are to walk in His “ways” we must not walk or stand or sit in the “ways” of the wicked or sinners or scoffers. While the essence of our faith is not negative, many of its expressions are – so that we might be “blessed.” As long as we are still on earth, we will still possess a fallen, sinful nature. We still need to be reminded where we came from and how far we still have to go. We still need God’s warnings and we should also praise God for what He forbids - just as we praise Him for what He provides.

The opening words of verse 1 are *“Blessed is the man”* – and then the psalmist goes on to tell us that God has provided a way for us to be *“blessed.”* Yes, we are blessed when we obey the prohibitions of God’s laws. But obeying God’s warnings can only happen when our hearts are right with God. The only strength we have in counteracting the lure of walking, standing or sitting with the wicked, sinful scoffers is - *through a change of heart.* And so as we read on in God’s Word, we read of how God has provided a *“way”* for that *change of heart* so we would joyfully obey His warnings.

*“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night”* (Psalm 1:2). What can change the deep affections of our fallen hearts? By what power can we obey the warnings of God? God provides that supernatural power when we *“delight in the law of the LORD.”* In context here Torah describes the first five books of the Old Testament, which also included the Ten Commandments. The *“law”* as it relates to us today includes all of the Word of God, the Bible,

God’s commandments reveal His desire for an intimate, joy-filled relationship of love with His people. Because God loves His people He instructs us and warns us and teaches us in the right way to live - so that we won’t destroy ourselves. The man in Psalm 1 *“delights in the law of the LORD”* because he *“delights”* himself in God more than anything or anyone else. The noun here translated *“delight”* conveys a sense of a deep passionate love. Because this *“delight”* is for both the object and subject of the psalmist’s affection, it is an *immeasurable pleasure.* The pleasures of walking and standing and sitting with the wicked, sinful scoffers can be resisted, by a greater pleasure in God.

And because *“his delight is in the law of the LORD”* the psalmist *“meditates”* on God’s law *“day and night.”* We do the same when we *“delight”* in something or someone. It’s on our mind all that time because our heart has been affected. The verb translated *“meditates”* means to ponder something and thereby *“take it into one’s being.”* To *“meditate”* on the Word of God *“day and night”* suggests the one who *“delights”* in God hungers for a regular exposure to God’s Word – not only meditating but also reading, studying, memorizing and singing and listening. This is reflected in other Psalms.

Take note that each line of the first two verses of Psalm 1 features the preposition *“in.”* The psalmist does not position himself *“in”* the place of sinners but *“in”* the law of the Lord. His delight is *“in”* the law, and he meditates *“in”* it day and night. If we want to get *“in”* the heart of God we must get *“in”* the Word of God. The Word of God – the Bible – is God’s protection for us. This reflects what happens when sin enters our hearts and gradually grows in us incrementally without us even understanding or knowing it. Once we embrace a philosophy or a thought or a belief that goes against a principle of God, we are easily drawn in to putting into practice in our own lives and then standing in judgment of those who don’t agree with us. We live in a society and culture that preaches materialism, consumerism, individualism, entitlement and absolute freedom without responsibility. Every appetite is identified and every appetite is encouraged. We are trained to want more and more. The allure of such a lifestyle is so powerful because of the large numbers who practice it, preach it and even ridicule those who stand apart.

Yes, sin has its own *“delight”* - but it will never satisfy the true yearning and hunger of our souls. We were created by God for a relationship with God - and the deep sense of well-being that comes from knowing God cannot be fulfilled by doing and being anything we want. But we will find that satisfaction, that fulfillment in the greater delight of knowing God in the Word of God. Sin has its pleasures, but sin cannot match the pleasures found in the Word of God. Psalm 19:10 tells us The Word of God is more desirable than gold and sweeter than *“honey and drippings of the honeycomb.”* What is it about the Word of God that makes it so desirable? Well, the Word of God is about...*God!* In His word, God is makes Himself known to us. God touches us and loves us and guides us and changes us and shapes us and molds us in His Word. King David wrote about his this in Psalm 16:11 *“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”* This is the blessing of we have in delighting in the Word of God!

It's in God's Word that we come to know Jesus. Not long after humanity was created, we rebelled and rejected God, fracturing our relationship with Him, separating us from the life we were created for. Sin brought death where there was life. Romans 6:23 says: *"the wages of sin is death."* But it was at the very moment when wicked, sinful scoffing began - God gave us His Word, His promise, that He would provide a savior to restore us back into the joyful relationship with God we were created for. And God did. Jesus' death on a cross paid the penalty for our sins; through him we can know forgiveness and restoration with God. John 3:16-17 tells us: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

There is a reason that Jesus is called *"the Word."* Jesus came from God and he spoke the truth of God because he was and is and always will be God. John speaks of Jesus in the first chapter of his gospel when he wrote: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* We are blessed when we delight in God's Word and we are blessed with new life when we receive the Word of God in Jesus Christ.

*"He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither."* (Psalm 1:3). Here we see *how* we are truly blessed by the Word of God. Trees need water to thrive and as they seek water their roots sink deeply into the ground, providing nourishment. God's Word is water for our dry and thirsty souls. When we delight in the God's Word and meditate on God's Word we receive spiritual nourishment. But that's not all. The water that flows through the tree produces leaves and then much needed fruit in season. While most fruit trees lose their leaves every year, the leaves of God's Word's do not *"wither."* God's Word provides stability in life.

When we delight and meditate on the Word of God we become spiritually fruitful by imparting the life of God into others. Jesus affirmed this in John 15:7-11 when he declared: *"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."* The blessing of abiding in the Word of God bears the fruit of being so right in the center of God's will that everything you ask for glorifies God; which bears the fruit of being so filled with the love of Jesus that you joyfully obey all of the commandments of God; which bears the fruit of being filled up to overflowing with the joy of Jesus. This is what the psalmist in Psalm 1 meant when he said: *"In all that he does, he prospers."*

*"The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away"* (Psalm 1:4). The psalmist abruptly turns back and looks at those who have refused to honor God's warnings/prohibitions. The *"wicked"* will not be blessed because they have chosen to reject God's principles and to obey their own words. The contrast is stark between the *"blessed"* who are *"like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season"* and the *"wicked"* who *"are like chaff that the wind drives away"*. Chaff is the dry, scaly protective casing of the seeds of cereal grains. Chaff, unlike a firmly planted tree, is separated from its source of life. A tree bears fruit, but chaff is disconnected from the fruit it surrounded. Chaff, unlike the leaves of the firmly planted tree, will wither away.

The psalmist uses this contrast to strip away the pretence that makes a lifestyle of doing whatever one pleases seem so appealing. Spiritually and eternally, such a lifestyle produces nothing of value beyond the grave. Those who opt to disconnect themselves from the life of God sever themselves from the true source of life. Their spiritual destiny will end *"like chaff that the wind drives away."*

*“Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish”* (Psalm 1:5-6). At the end of this psalm we see the dramatic contrast between those who choose to go their own way and the *“way of the righteous.”* The way of *“sinners”* and the way of the *“righteous”* lead to different places. The Lord knows the *“way”* of those who delight and meditating on His Word. He provides and protects all who walk in this way. God blesses those who choose the *“way”* of the Word of God.

If you delight in the Word of God and meditate on it, be assured of that Jesus knows your *“way”* - because *he is walking next with you.* He is empowering you to bear fruit, preparing you to come home. Such is not the fate of those who choose another way. They have lost their way because they have separated themselves from God’s *“way.”* They have chosen a path that leads far from God; they *“will not stand in the judgment”* nor will not be *“in the congregation of the righteous.”* When our lifestyles, habits, patterns of thinking, speaking and behaviour are contrary to God’s principles, we end up following a path that will ultimately lead to an eternally fatal dead-end.

If we want the blessing of God in our lives, we must walk in God’s *“way”*. And as Christians we are constantly faced and challenged with the question of whether following Christ is worth it. Many don’t believe it is. They like the *“way”* their lives are. They refuse to be told how to walk, stand or sit. They’re not willing to give up their self-centered independence for grace-centered, joy-filled God-dependence. There are many today who claim Christ who struggle with following Jesus because the Bible doesn’t present the Christian *“way”* as one of comfort, pleasure and prosperity. On the contrary, following Jesus, living for Jesus, can be extremely challenging and downright painful. It’s hard to forgive those who have hurt us. It’s hard to love our enemies. It’s hard to deny ourselves. It’s hard to repent of our sins. It’s hard to delight and meditate and drink deeply of God’s Word when it doesn’t agree with what we are thinking, saying and doing.

But the reality is that as long as we are alive on this earth we will constantly be faced with choices – *and this is the one choice that matters the most.* When we make choices, God cannot be just *part* of the equation; He must be all of the equation. In fact God *is* the equation. When we make decisions, we must always consider where those decisions are coming from and where they will lead us. God’s Word is straightforward with His commands and we *need* them. We *need* to know what to do and what not to do. But take note: Psalm 1 contains no commands. Instead, it paints pictures and then lets us decide which way to go. The person who wrote Psalm 1 does give us insight. If we want to be blessed by God with a fruitful life we need to meditate and delight and deeply drink of God’s word.

*“His delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”* Pastor/theologian Eugene Peterson said that good Bible readers will be attentive, not just to the immediate context, but to the larger context of the whole Bible. In his book, entitled *“Eat This Book”* he wrote: *“Maybe it is because Scripture comes to us so authoritatively – as God’s word! — we think all we can do is submit and obey. Submission and obedience are a large part of it, but first we have to listen. And listening requires listening to the way it is said in form, as well as to what is said in content.”*

Peterson highlights this by looking at the rewards of *meditating* on Scripture. The Hebrew word for *“meditate”* is *hagah*, the same word that is used in Isaiah 31:4 to describe how a lion savors its prey. Peterson likens this to the way a dog *“meditates”* on a bone. Quite often, when a dog gets a new bone, they are very proud of what they have and they prance around, show it off. After a while the dog will go off away from people and enjoy its bone - chewing, grinding, breaking down the bone into pieces; slow but sure, until they have even swallowed the bone. We can read the Word of God every day and be touched by it. But do we truly ingest His word? This is how we are meditate on the Bible. Most Christians have sampled the Bible. But how many have meditated on right down to the marrow? Here is where I am going to plead with you to get involved in the habit of Bible memorization.

Unless you memorize the Word of God you will not truly meditate on it day and night. But oh, the benefits and delights of knowing communion with God hour by hour in his Word! As you *hagah* the Bible, God will speak to you and guide you and live in you and change you and empower you and bless you through His Words in your memory.

*“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”* Here in the Word of God the psalmist gives us a picture of what life in the Kingdom of God is all about, when he tells us that are “*streams of water*” there. This is the living water of God flowing through the Word of God in the Psalms. We are planted there only by God’s sovereign grace. Our roots there reach the water of life that keeps our leaves green during our days of drought and makes us fruitful when others around us are barren. Our root system is neither mechanical nor automatic. Our roots only work through meditation focused on the Word of God.

The result is delight in the Word of God, which gives us spiritual pleasure in what we see of God and man and life. And from this delight comes all kinds of transformed attitudes and behaviors. The battle to avoid the counsel of the wicked and the way of the sinner and the seat of the scoffer — the battle to be righteous and holy and humble - is a fight that is won by delighting in the Word of God. Hear the Word of God . . .

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words. My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise. *Psalms 119:147-148*

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. *Psalms 119:11*

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. *Psalms 119:18*

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. *Psalms 119:105*

The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works. The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. *Psalms 145:13-14*

The *law* of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts 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 rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. *Psalms 19:7-14*

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 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 and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, *so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth*; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. *Isaiah 55:6-13*

I have been preaching and teaching the Word of God for about three decades – in churches and in prisons; at retreats and in campgrounds; in the slums in Brazil and in the fishing villages of Philippine Islands; in inner city rescue missions and at numerous ministry conferences. Today I am preaching my last sermon at Arrowsmith Baptist Church and I want to thank you for calling me 13 years ago to preach/teach the Word of God at Arrowsmith Baptist Church. It has been a privilege and a blessing. I also thank you for allowing me to preach/teach the Word “without mufflers.”

We live in a day where the historical, traditional, orthodox, reformational, Christ-centered, Gospel-saturated, Kingdom-oriented interpretation and expositional view of the Holy Scriptures is no longer accepted supported. But you’ve allowed me to preach and teach the truth of the Word of God about the Kingdom of God in the world that is saturated with a self-truth that promotes the Kingdom of Self – which is a spiritual pandemic that’s killing billions of souls.

But we do have vaccine for that. Hebrews 4:12 tells us *“The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”* The “word of God” that is our vaccine - is Jesus. He is “living and active” to those who put their trust in the reality that God the Father sent his only Son Jesus Christ, to die on a cross in our place for the forgiveness of our sins when we surrender to him as our Lord and our Savior, so we might be redeemed and restored back into the relationship with God that we were created for. Philippians 2:16 tells us we are to *“hold fast to the word of life”* The world we live in needs the light and life of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Word of God calls us to share the gospel of *“the word of life”* that offers new life and eternal life of Jesus Christ. We are called to passionately proclaim the glory of God in Christ for the joy of all people.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”* Only two things will last forever: God’s Word and people. We would be wise to invest one into the other, making sure that the remaining days of our stay on this planet have optimal impact and lasting consequences on the lives of other people, leveraging the wealth of this world for eternal gain. We will never truly become spiritually mature in our walk with God and with one another - until our walk with God and our walk with one another is deeply and intimately and joyfully rooted in the Word of God. That is the blessing of delighting in the Word of God.

Today I am preaching my last sermon at Arrowsmith Baptist Church - and today is also the last Sunday of my serving you as the Lead Pastor of the church. And so I would like to give you charge.

In book of Acts we read of the apostle Paul giving a farewell charge to the church in Ephesus. In Acts 20:32 he said: *“Now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”* The apostle is telling us here that the Word of God is the means by which is the power of the grace of our sovereign God comes into our lives. The gospel of John tells us the same when it says: *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . . and from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”* When the Word of God becomes flesh in us we receive grace upon grace! And so reading, studying, listening, meditating and memorizing and preaching and teaching and discussing the Bible is not a boring, passive activity - but rather a joy-filled, passionate, life-saving, life-building, life-sanctifying activity of God’s grace!

And so out of the Word of God, I charge you to . . . Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:16-17), and remember that - the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever! (Isaiah 40:8). And all Gods people said – Amen!

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Pastor Leland Botzet

Arrowsmith Baptist Church

*Closing prayer*

Heavenly Father – We praise you for being our God and we thank you for the last 13 years of ministry together with at Arrowsmith Baptist Church. May you bless this family of God in their search for new shepherd to lead them.

Empower them as they passionately proclaim the glory of God in Christ for the joy of all people. May the days before them be fruitful for the Kingdom. Guide them and Protect them. And may they continue to be a people of the Book, the Scriptures, the Bible, the Word of God that became flesh.

By His grace and for His Glory. Amen!