

Psalms 33:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

Analysis

For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

David transitions from worship commands to theological foundation, explaining why God deserves such praise. This establishes God's perfect righteousness in revelation (His word) and action (His works), providing rational basis for exuberant worship. True praise flows from accurate theology.

For signals cause—following truth explains why preceding worship is appropriate. Worship isn't arbitrary or merely emotional but rests on God's character and works. Reformed theology emphasizes worship requires right knowledge of God. True worship arises from true theology. David doesn't merely command celebration; he provides doctrinal foundation—God's word and works are perfect, therefore He deserves perfect praise.

The word of the LORD is right (Hebrew *dabar* YHWH—God's communication, revealed will and truth; *yashar*—straight, upright, correct) presents God's revelation as standard of truth. God's word is morally perfect, factually true, completely reliable. It's standard by which all other truth claims are measured. Reformed theology emphasizes *sola Scriptura*—Scripture alone as final authority—precisely because God's word is intrinsically right, not needing external validation or correction.

And all his works are done in truth parallels God's revelation with His action. Works (*ma'aseh*—deeds, actions) means what God does. Done in truth (*emunah*—

faithfulness, reliability, firmness) means everything God does reflects His truthful character—His actions match His promises, deeds fulfill word. No discrepancy between what God says and what God does. He is thoroughly consistent, reliable, faithful. This contrasts sharply with humans whose words often exceed performance or promises fail. God's works always manifest truth.

Parallelism (word/works, right/truth) demonstrates comprehensive perfection. God is perfect in revelation and action, in saying and doing, in promise and performance. This dual perfection provides foundation for absolute trust. We can rely on God's word because it's right; we can trust His works because they're done in truth. Worship responds to this perfection—celebrating God whose every word is trustworthy and whose every deed is faithful.

Historical Context

Affirmation that God's word is right runs throughout Scripture. Proverbs 30:5 declares every word of God is pure. Psalm 19:7-9 catalogs six descriptions of Scripture's perfection (law perfect, testimony sure, statutes right, commandment pure, fear clean, judgments true and righteous). Jesus affirmed Scripture's absolute reliability (Matthew 5:18, John 10:35). Early church received Scripture as God-breathed and profitable (2 Timothy 3:16).

God's truthful works appear throughout redemptive history. God's promises to Abraham were fulfilled precisely. Exodus occurred as predicted. Monarchy, exile, return all matched prophetic words. Ultimately, Christ's coming fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies with precision. God's works validate His words; His words explain His works. This consistent reliability across millennia builds confidence for future promises—same God faithful in past will be faithful in future.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God's word is right affect your approach to Scripture—confidence in it, submission to it, proclamation of it?
2. What is relationship between God's word (revelation) and God's works (action), and why must both be perfect for Him to be fully trustworthy?
3. How does theology (understanding God's character accurately) provide foundation for doxology (worshiping God appropriately)?
4. In what ways have you seen God's works validate His words—promises fulfilled, prophecies accomplished, character demonstrated?
5. Why is it essential that worship be grounded in truth about God rather than merely in emotional experience or cultural tradition?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יָשָׁר	דִּבַּר	יְהוָה	וְכָל	מַעֲשֵׂה הוֹ	בְּאֱמוּנָה:
H3588	is right	For the word	of the LORD	H3605	and all his works	are done in truth
	H3477	H1697	H3068		H4639	H530

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 12:6 (Word): The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Titus 1:2 (Parallel theme): In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Deuteronomy 32:4 (Truth): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Psalms 119:75 (References Lord): I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

Daniel 4:37 (Truth): Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Psalms 19:8 (Word): The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalms 119:128 (Parallel theme): Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

Proverbs 30:5 (Word): Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Psalms 96:13 (Truth): Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Romans 7:12 (Word): Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

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