

Psalm 19

- In Psalm 19 David declares how God has revealed Himself to man.
 - God has revealed Himself to man in nature, in His Word, and through His Son.
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V: 1 *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork.”*

- The heavens / universe declaring the constant, un-ending, hugeness, power, faithfulness, kindness of God
- The capacity of God to create something so big, so beautiful.

Psalm 8:3-4 “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?”

- As big as all of that is, God is still bigger!

Isaiah 48:13 “Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand hath spanned the heavens:...”

- Firmament: speaks of the Earth, attention to detail, minute delicate details.
- Biologists claim that there are as many as 1.6 million species of fungi in the world today, 1.2 million of which are in my son’s room. There are 10,000 species of ants, 300,000 species of flowering plants, between 4-5,000 species of mammals, 10,000 species of birds. These numbers are large, but they pale in comparison when you begin to examine the heavens, and the universe.
- Thinking about the balance of the earth to the rest of our solar system. If we were any closer to the sun all the water would evaporate and we’d burn up. If we were any farther away, the water would freeze, and so would we.
- The angle of the earth that gives us the different seasons, the rotation of the earth on it’s axis. If it was more or less than what it is, the polar ice caps would either grow or shrink excessively and eliminate our ability to grow food. The seasons would be much harsher.

V: 2 *“Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.”*

- During the daytime we see things, we make observations, we begin to see how things work all around us. At night we’re laying there thinking about those things

we've seen, pondering, considering and the Lord reveals knowledge, He gives understanding.

Psalm 111:2 "The works of the Lord are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them."

V: 3 *"There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard."*

- Nature and creation are a universal language that any one from any culture can understand.
- The Apostle Paul picks up on God revealing Himself through nature in Romans Chapter 1.

Romans 1:19-20 "19Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

- We see the hand of God in creation, His incredible design, seeing the design there has to be a designer - that is if we're thinking rationally. If we're not thinking rationally then we begin to worship the tree, ascribing to it the attribute of God, worshipping the creature rather than the creator.

Romans 1:25 "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

- God's glory is evident to all, the heavens declaring the glory of God.

V: 4-5 *"4Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath He set a tabernacle for the sun, 5Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race."*

- Line: chord, standard, plumb line - line or string used for construction.
- Paul quotes this verse in his letter to the Romans (10:18), stating that the whole world has been told, an open letter to all of mankind.

V: 6 *"His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."*

- Every day the sun makes it's race through the sky with a systematic regularity that doesn't change. It's not fast one day, then slow the next - a regularity that points again to design, a design that points to a designer!

- Because man did not heed the voice of God in nature, because he stopped short and began to worship the creation rather than the Creator; it was necessary for God to speak more specifically to man to reveal Himself and His will.
- Nature does tell us that there are certain things that are natural and there are things that are unnatural - that's one of the testimonies of nature.
- Nature teaches us through our biological or physiological make up. Nature teaches us that sexual relationships are designed for a man and a woman.
- For a man to seek to have a sexual relationship with another man is unnatural. We weren't created that way. You look at lions, and tigers, and bears they only do that which is natural. Same with the eagles, and horses, and cows and so on; nature points to what is right.
- Sexual unions between men and men or women and women are un-natural. But men have come to the place of rejecting nature, rejecting God's design. There are a lot of things that nature would teach us if we would just listen.
- **Because man has twisted or ignored the voice of God in nature, God then speaks through His Law.**

V: 7-11 These verses are not a change of subject, it's a progression, a progressive revelation.

- In describing the testimony of creation (V:1) and nature David used "**Elohim**" (God) the name used in **Genesis 1:1**, describing His great power. When it comes to describing God's Word, seven times he uses the "covenant" name "**Jehovah**" or "LORD."
- Examining the **Law**, the **Testimony**, the **Statutes**, the **Commandments**, the **Fear** of the Lord, and His **Judgments** - these are all describing different aspects of the Word of God.
- In trying to define or discern the distinctions between these terms which all relate to God's Word in some way, it seems at times like splitting hairs - but I do like the poetic beauty of describing different facets of God's Word, like looking at different facets of a precious jewel.
- Just as the stars were used for navigation, God's Word will help us to navigate through life.

Psalm 119:105 "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

- We'll see a general pattern as we examine these different aspects of God's Word:

1. General identification of God's Word.
2. Adjective, declaring or amplifying an attribute of God's Word.
3. Effect, as in cause and effect, the effect of God's Word.

V: 7 *“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple.”*

“*Law*” (H8451) Torah; law, instruction, direction, teaching. Basically referring to the first five books of the Bible, also referred to as the “Pentateuch.”

- The Law is set, it is invariable, and constant. God's Word doesn't change!

Isaiah 40:8 *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.”*

“*Perfect*” (H8549) “ta-mim” - blameless, complete, without fault or blemish, perfect. Don't need to add to it or take away from it, it's perfect.

2 Peter 1:2-3 *“²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”*

“*Converting*” (H7725) to change, to re-establish, to restore - in this case to restore a right relationship with God, to re-establish fellowship with God, to change our eternal destination.

Psalms 51:12-13 *“¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. ¹³Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”*

Matthew 18:3 *“... verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*

“*Testimony*” (H5718) “edut” - Testimony, precept (general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought), warning sign.

- This is the testimony of the Lord, not just of man.
- The Ten Commandments were known as “The Testimony.”

Exodus 25:21 *“And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.”*

“*Sure*” (H539) “Aman” - sure, build up, firm, stable - like a strong foundation.

Metaphorically the word conveys the idea of faithfulness and trustworthiness, such that one could fully depend on it.

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.”

“... *making wise the simple.*” The effect of taking those that are simple, simple minded, foolish, those who are naive concerning the complexities of life and making them wise.

Psalms 119:130 “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

- God’s Word will make me smarter!

Isaiah 28:9-10 “⁹Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. ¹⁰For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

V: 8 “*The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.*”

“*Statutes*” (H6490) - Individual decrees, specific counsel, precepts, points of instruction. The root expresses the idea that God is paying attention to how He wants things ordered.

- Detailed instructions concerning the practical matters of every day life; what they ate, how they dressed, long hair, short hair, how they kept clean.

“*Right*” (H3477) “Yassar” - straight, just, right.

- His Statutes are right! God’s Word is always right.

Romans 3:4 “... yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;...”

- Again the effect: “... *rejoicing the heart.*” To be joyful, glad, rejoicing.

“*Commandment*” (H4687) “Miswah” - direct statements of right & wrong, fixed points. Directive; commandments as opposed to suggestions.

“*Pure*” (1249) “bar” - pure, clean, radiant. Speaking to purity or cleanness of heart. Holy and without impurity.

- Effect: “*Enlightening the eyes.*” To give light, to shine, to become light. When we are enlightened we are able to see what is really there. Discerning the truth.

V: 9 “*The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.*”

“*Fear*” (H3374) “yirah”: Holy reverence. The word usually refers to the fear of God and is viewed as a positive quality. This fear acknowledges God’s good intentions.

- We cannot learn the Word of God unless we show reverence and respect for the God of the Word.
- To teach the Bible is to teach the fear of the Lord:

Psalm 34:11 “Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 4:10 “... I will make them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.”

- This fear is produced by God’s Word and makes a person receptive to wisdom and knowledge.

Psalm 119:38 “Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.”

NASB: “Establish Your word to Your servant, as that which produces reverence for You.”

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

“*Clean*” (H2889) “Tahor” - clean, pure, genuine. This word is used ninety times in the Old Testament, primarily to distinguish things that were culturally pure, capable of being used in, or taking part in the religious rituals of Israel, meaning ceremonially clean.

- God’s Word is clean, and it’s a cleansing agent in our lives:

John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.”

Psalm 119:11 “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Ephesians 5:26 “That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.”

“*Enduring forever:*” From everlasting to everlasting!

1 John 2:17 “... he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- There has been a progression in the effect of God’s Word.

1. ⁷Conversion / salvation.
2. Wisdom, gaining wisdom.
3. ⁸Rejoicing in our hearts - joy!
4. Enlightenment, understanding.
5. ⁹Enduring forever, everlasting life.

“*Judgments*” - His decrees, His decisions, His conclusions, His sentence.

“*True and righteous all together.*” They reflect the heart of the author.

John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life...”

- Verses 10 & 11 are the effect of that truth and righteousness.

V: 10 “*More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*”

Job 23:12 “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

Psalm 119:103 “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

V: 11 “*Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*”

Psalm 1:1-3 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

- It’s not in the hearing, or knowing of God’s Word that saves us, it’s the keeping of the Word of God.

- God has revealed himself to us through nature, and through His Word, general revelation verses specific revelation - and He's revealed Himself to us through His Son.
- If we were to describe Jesus what are some of the characteristics or adjectives we would use to do that?
- ⁷Perfect, ^{sure}, ⁸right (righteous), ^{pure} (holy), ⁹clean (without spot or blemish), ^{true}, and ^{righteous all together}, and ¹¹our great reward - He is our great reward, heaven is just where He lives!

V: 12 “*Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults.*”

- The first part of this is a rhetorical question; to understand His errors you would first have to be able to point them out and since He doesn't make mistakes it's an impossible pursuit.

Romans 11:33-34 “³³O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! ³⁴For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counsellor?”

- Thus far David has been praising God, worshipping God, extolling the virtues and excellency of His Word, it has been a declaration. Now he transitions into prayer, to petition.

“... *cleanse thou me* ...” Lord I need you to clean me up, I can't do it.

Psalm 119:9 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to they Word.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

... *from secret faults.*”

- Secret faults are not our known conscious secrets / sins, these are the things that we're not even aware of, things that we do in ignorance, or through deception.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? ¹⁰I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins,...”

Psalm 139:1-2, 6 “¹O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. ²Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.” - “⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.”

- Lord I don't even know my own heart, I need you to discern that for me. Thus David later prays:

Psalm 139:23-24 “²³Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

- God's Word has a way of rooting those things out, or cutting them out...

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

V: 13 “*Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: Then I shall be upright (blameless), and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.*”

- David moves from sins that are hidden in his heart, things that he's not aware of, now to things that he is aware of, moving from secret faults to presumptuous sins, obvious, deliberate, and known sins, transgressions.
- Pornography is a presumptuous sin that if not dealt with will soon have dominion over a person, illicit drug use, alcohol abuse / drunkenness is the same - obvious and life dominating if not dealt with in a biblical way.

1 Chronicles 4:10 “And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.”

Jeremiah 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps.”

Matthew 5:9, 11 “⁹... our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...¹¹and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:...”

“... let them not have dominion over me...”

- Because of the shed blood of Jesus, sin no longer has dominion over us, we are no longer slaves to sin.

Romans 6:11-14 “¹¹Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³Neither

yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

2 Peter 2:19 “... for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage.”

Psalms 119:133 “Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.”

“^{13b} Then I shall be upright (complete / finished), and I shall be innocent (clean, pure) from the great transgression.”

- To be upright, meaning complete or finished, like finishing a story or speech.
- Innocent from the great transgression. What is “the” great transgression? The only unpardonable sin, blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, the rejection of Jesus Christ.
- It is for the cause of “presumptuous sins” listed in **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, **Galatians 5:19-21**, **Ephesians 5:3-5**, **Revelation 21:8** - that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God - because they don't really believe in Him if they continue to do these things, they are trampling on Jesus' sacrifice
- But if we do what David is suggesting, warning us against - we won't have to worry about presumptuous sins, they won't have dominion over us, we'll be amongst the upright.

V: 14 *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”*

Ephesians 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

- Lord, guide the words of my mouth, direct the meditations of my heart - so that they would be acceptable to you my Lord!
- The word “acceptable” refers to the priest's examination of the sacrifices to make sure they were without blemish. If the sacrifice wasn't acceptable to the Lord, then the worshipper wasn't accepted by the Lord either.

- The words that we speak begin with the meditations of our hearts, if we're meditating in God's Word, then that's what will come out.

Psalm 1:2-3 ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doeth he meditate day and night. ³And e shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but do do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”