

For His Glory

Psalm 19

Introduction

Good morning, Lighthouse. Are you ready for the Word of God? We live in a day of spiritual and moral confusion. Some say, "This is the way you need to live" to which others say back, "No, this is the way!" My way is right, and your way is wrong. A growing popular thought now is "There is no right way, everyone must choose their own way." Philosophers, educators, sociologists, psychologists, politicians, and even preachers offer their speculations about how we should live. However, we don't need more speculation or debate about which way is right or better. We need a sure word of authoritative revelation that tells us why we're here and how we should live considering that purpose. Why we exist, and what are we to do. We learn early on in life that every effect must have a cause. The fact that there is creation surrounding us says there is a cause. There is only one reasonable, rational explanation for the universe and for creation, and it is that there is a Creator. Creation demands a Creator. The God of the Bible claims that responsibility. If God is the Creator, then He is the sole and final authority. Here in Psalm 19, we get to read about King David's heart for the One who created it all. If you love astronomy and taking your telescope outside, you'll relate with this Psalm well.

Psalm 19:1-14 (1) To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (2) Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. (3) There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. (4) Their 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, (5) Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. (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. (7) The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (8) The statutes of the

LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. (9) The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (10) More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. (11) Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. (12) Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. (13) Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. (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.

Outline

I. God's glory declared in creation, vv. 1-6.

A. God's glory shown by the "heavens" vv. 1-2.

1. Starting off he identifies his recipient and "chief musician" and the writer "David." Could be Asaph who is called chief in Chronicles and it would fit as giving these a lyrics for him to play music to. Some have also proposed God as the chief musician since he is ultimately writing and singing to God.

(1) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (2) Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

2. This reminds us of the first verse when you open the Bible at the beginning.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

3. This is not to be confused with heaven in the sense of where believers go after they leave this life. Heavens can be described in 3 realms. Ancient cultures viewed it as 1st heaven, the sky, 2nd outer space and 3rd a spiritual unseen heaven where God dwells. 1st and 2nd one are visible to the eye.

2 Corinthians 12:2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

4. The following verses indicate David is talking about the heavens that can be seen. They declare the glory of God! The "firmament" (A poetic way to refer to the sky) shows his handiwork.
- a. He could see it in the blue sky, with the glory of the sun and clouds and the beauty of sunrises and sunsets.
 - b. He could see it in the night sky, with the brightness of the moon, the awe of the starry sky and the cloudy spread of the distant galaxies.
 - c. These together — with their size and wonder spoke to David and all who would see that The God who created all this is glorious, and this is evidence of His glory.

B. God's creation testifies of His existence to all the world, vv. 3-4a.

(3) There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. (4) Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

1. The glory of God in the visible heavens is for all to see.
2. Although no literal words are spoken, it transcends language barriers. It is communicated to all mankind. A message that has gone out through all the earth.
3. Paul expands on this in Romans chapter 1.

(18) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; (19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. (20) For 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: (21) Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, (23) And changed

the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

4. Many Christians as well as theologians have wrestled with this question: What about those who've never heard of Jesus or that there is God?
5. It's a fair question. What we just read though gives us our answer: Creation itself is testimony that there is a Creator there and He can be known. It's their responsibility what they do with that revelation. None are without excuse. Worship the Creator or falsely worship the creation. When a person responds to the light God shows Him, He sends more light. Why else do you think God is calling and sending missionaries in all the world? Because there are those out there responding to God's light that He is preparing.
6. Many have concluded that those who never heard are safe because they don't know any better. If this were the case, we're better off never to send anyone or to speak the Gospel to anyone. Everyone who doesn't know Jesus is in danger of facing the consequence of their sin. That is why those who do you know Him need to do their diligence in spreading His Gospel.

C. God's power shown through His creation. vv. 4b-6.

...(4) In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, (5) Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. (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.

1. Here David starts giving poetic descriptions of the sun. How its place of dwelling is in the heavens.
2. The sun makes its course through the sky with joy and strength, like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and an athlete running a race.

3. The sun is truly remarkable. Fictional works have villains obsessing over the power of the sun being grasped in their hands and it's even the source of power to mighty characters. According to NASA research, for earth, it is a major source of energy for oceans, atmosphere, land, and biosphere. Averaged over an entire year, approximately 342 watts of solar energy fall upon every square meter of Earth. Estimated 44 quadrillion watts of power by the year. As a comparison, a large electric power plant produces about 1 billion watts of power, so it would take 44 million large power plants to equal the energy coming from the sun.
4. Yet, in all that power, it has a Creator. It demonstrates the infinite power of its Creator.
5. In all this glory we see from creation, there's something even greater. God's Word. He has magnified His Word even above His name.

Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth:

for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

6. While the revelation of God through His creation is amazing. It won't save you. Rather it is to point you to a Savior.

II. God's glory revealed by His Word, vv. 7-8.

(7) The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (8) The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

A. The nature of God's Word:

1. David now shifts from using "God" in verse one (El) the most to generic use of addressing God to "LORD" Yehovah. The title He gives Moses at the burning Bush - Self existing one - I am.

(I'm going to parallel it a different way:)

2. How His Word is described:

- a. The Law (Torah) is perfect. The use of this word Law is Torah from the Hebrew. It's application isn't just referring to the Mosaic Law but in all of God's revelation. It is perfect, giving us all things that pertain to life and godliness.
- b. The testimony of the Lord is sure. It is certain, absolute, and reliable.
- c. The statutes of the Lord are right. They are morally right, practically right, and universally right. They are right because it is the revelation of a God who is holy, true, and always right.
- d. The commandment of the Lord is pure. Because it comes from a pure God, the Word will also be pure. Without spot.

B. The capabilities of God's Word:

1. Parallelism continued:
2. In result: His Word:
 - a. Converts the soul. By its perfection, there is power in the reading and hearing and studying of the word of God that goes beyond intellectual benefit; it converts/revives the soul.
 - b. Makes wise the simple. Many people of simple education or upbringing have tremendous wisdom unto life and godliness because they know and trust the sure - word of the LORD.

c. Rejoices the heart. The one who knows the word of God and the God of the word rejoices in this. He finds joy, actual pleasure in the truth of God and relationship with God revealed in His word.

d. Enlightens the eyes. By its purity it will bring the cheer and comfort and knowledge and confidence that a light brings in the midst of darkness.

III. Man's needed response to grace, vv. 9-14.

A. Man should fear the Lord, v. 9.

(9) The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

1. A phrase we see in the Proverbs as well. In Proverbs we read the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, the beginning of wisdom and it is to hate evil, pride and arrogance.

2. This world lacks this tremendously. Even many who claim to know God. They don't fear the Lord. There's no reverence for His character or warnings. A proper reverence towards God grows to a greater love.

B. Man should love God's Word v. 10.

(10) More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

1. Coming from a very wealthy man too. David though not a perfect man by any means was not known for riches, he was known as a man after God's own heart. It was his desire.

2. God's word was not only to be held in greater esteem than material wealth, but also, greater than experiences of the senses. Honey is sweet and pleasant to eat, but God's word is sweeter.

3. While the statements David made are true, do you believe it? Most would say they'd rather have the fine gold. What about you?

4. David valued it as priceless.

C. Man should live by God's Word vv. 11-14.

(11) Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. (12) Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

1. David then gives us what the Word does which wealth cannot do. It warns us, instructs us, cleanses us, reveals our nature to us, and protects us.
2. David prays to keep him from presumptions sins and to not let them have dominion over his life. Gold is not capable of such a thing.
3. To end his Psalm he prays: (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.

Conclusion

The heavens declare the glory of God. What an amazing Psalm to point us back to why these things exist for His glory. As wonderful God's creation of the universe is, there is something God loves more and takes more delight in. That's you. If you notice in the first chapter of the Bible, God observes his creation 7 times total and says it was good. In the creation of humanity, he then observes it all and says it was "very" good. Good in that He had a design and purpose in mind and that the created products met His approval—He judged them to be effective for serving His purpose. You exist also for His glory and His worship. You were made for relationship with your God. Unfortunately, that relationship was thwarted by sin and rebellion. The solution has been provided by God Himself in giving us His only begotten Son, Jesus to die on a cross on our behalf. Who then conquered the grave 3 days and 3 nights later. If you don't know Him as Savior, I urge you to consider His love for you and your need to be saved. If you exist for Him, then He is your strength and redeemer.