

I have a grandson who is three. His name is Henry, and we are constantly amazed at what all of our grandchildren say and do. The other evening Henry was visiting in our home and brought a little green plastic dragon. I asked if I could look at it. He brought it over and I noticed that there was a button on the dragon's back, just above his tail. I asked, "What is this for?" and pushed the button. A red thing came out of the dragon's mouth, about two inches long. "Oh," I said. "It puts his tongue out." Henry got a distressed look on his face and said plaintively, "Don't say tongue, Grandpa." I gave him a hug and gave him his dragon back. The rest of the evening, every half hour or so, he would say again, "Don't say tongue, Grandpa." I said, "I know, Henry, it is fire, not a tongue." So it went on, all evening. Remember this story, for I will come back to it later.

I have read this entire Psalm from the Authorized Version because that is what so many of you memorized when you were a child in Sunday School or Bible School. The Psalm naturally divides into three main sections:

- I. God's revelation of Himself in the work of Creation. Verses 1-6
 - A. From the time of his birth, and in some ways even before, every child experiences in thousands of ways the world of God's creation, and no one can escape the sensations that come to him by his five senses. He smells, and tastes, and feels, and sees and hears all sorts of things
 - B. I could not possibly list, let alone illustrate, all the things a child senses, but I would like to speak of several things. I would paint several scenes to illustrate the applications I will make in sections two and three of my remarks this afternoon.
 1. Very early a child has some very important experiences and learns that cold, hungry, and wet are not good things; it is far better to be cuddled by mommy, nurse at her breast, and have his wet clothes changed so that he is warm and dry. The former is bad, the latter is good. All experiences are not of equal value. These are critical things that go with him all his life.
 2. Later he begins to crawl around on the floor, and he thinks that everything on the floor is his, and everything he finds he puts into his mouth. He soon learns that some things are good to taste and eat, and other things are nasty and are to be rejected. This, too, is a critically important thing to learn.
 3. I have granddaughter. When she was about three she was in our yard just after the aspen trees had first sent out leaves. It was a beautiful spring day and as we stood by a small aspen, a sudden breeze caught the leaves of the tree and they quaked in the breeze. It so affected the little girl that she shivered all over, imitating the tree, as the wind also rustled her clothes and tossed her hair.
 4. Later on, our little boy and girl began to learn about father. If a toy was broken, Dad could fix it; If you got caught in a tree and couldn't get down, Dad could save you. Mother could do these things also, but some things only Dad could do. He could teach you to fish, to throw a football. He could teach how to deal with a bully. Dads were pretty special.
 5. They would learn that there are both good things and bad things in the world. Some dogs are dangerous; wild animals are to be avoided. But there were pet fish, frogs, kittens, and even pet snakes and bugs if you were careful. Spiders generally should be avoided, and so forth.
 - C. Remember these five things: the first experiences of hunger, cold, wet; the experiments with things on the floor; the shivering in the wind; the good things of fatherhood motherhood; and the good and evil in the world. There are many other things that could be cited, but these will be sufficient for our purposes this afternoon. They were picked at random, but will serve our purposes.
 1. The Bible says that wisdom is near to those who have understanding, but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth. God has surrounded mankind with every kind of witness to His goodness, His power, and the moral nature of His creation, so that no one can escape it. The witness to God in creation overwhelms man.
 2. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard, for their voice has gone out to all the world, to the ends of the world, as our Psalm tells us.
 3. There is nothing complicated about it, and a boy or girl does not need to be well schooled to learn the lessons of the five experiences I listed. Every child has had them, or something very similar.

4. Although man is not born with a data base of factual information, yet the facts come to him in all of his senses as the good and bad smells assault him; color and light and motion catch his eyes; sounds, pleasant and frightening beat upon his ears; he feels all kinds of things: soft blankets and soft skin; scratchy beards, silky cat hair, squishy oatmeal, and hot stoves. He loves the taste of some foods and quickly spits out others that do not please him. Even in a very short time of a few years, he has collected an enormous number of facts.
5. But man is different from the beasts of the field, for he was created in the image of God, and has the capacity to think of things that cannot be experienced with the five senses of the body.

II. God’s revelation of Himself in the sacred writings. Verses 7-11

- A. What is man to do with all this abundance of facts that come to him from the flood of sensations that assault him from the beginning of his life and continue until death? An abundance of data is useless unless it can be organized in some way, digested, and its meaning discovered. Knowledge is like a string of pearls, more than one man has said. To have a string of pearls you need not only the pearls, but you have to have a string to put them on. Facts that are not organized are like a handful of pearls that you scatter around and people slip and fall, but how beautiful are a string of matched pearls, of far more value than the sum of the value of the individual pearls.
- B. This is where the scriptures come in. They point us from things which are seen to those things which cannot be seen. They enlighten the eyes—man has the capability of having other kinds of eyes than those that see the light of the sun, moon, and stars. There are treasures greater than gold; there are things sweeter than honey. They warn of dangers far greater than bears, and lions, and avalanches, and hurricanes. There are rewards far greater than anything in creation.
- C. To return to our five incidents; they all prepare a child for the entrance of the Scriptures which give light, for God would move us from the things that are seen, to the things that cannot be seen.
 1. It is good to be warm and fed, and secure. But far better is it for the soul to rest on the bosom of God and be fed by the bread of life, to drink of the water of life, and feed on the milk of the word of God.
 2. It is good to eat good things, but how much better to taste and see that the Lord is good.
 3. I know my granddaughter was moved in her little soul by the breeze that fluttered the aspen tree that beautiful spring morning, and I felt it also in a strange way. If I had not known the Scriptures, I might have become a pantheist that day. But how much more powerful is the breath of the Holy Spirit that breathed out the Holy Scriptures that moves our stony and dead hearts to live and praise the Lord with our redeemed breath.
 4. And what shall I say of fatherhood? “If you being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much shall your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask.”
 5. And the word promises us the rewards of good and warns of the dangers of evil.
- D. Our five senses of the body receive the data from the natural world, by which God reveals Himself, and we are taught by the Scriptures to interpret that data and see God: We are to taste and to see that the Lord is God and gracious; to hear His voice and live; to feel after the Lord to find him; to breathe in the sweet fragrance of His presence and have our hearts made glad. In the visible we are to see the invisible and we cannot do that without the Scriptures, the sacred writings.
- E. Why cannot we do that? We cannot do that because we are sinful, and prone to error and mistake.
- F. That brings us back to Henry’s dragon. All I did was change one attribute of the plastic dragon and little Henry’s heart was filled with anguish. He didn’t know how to tell me, but he was very distressed. You see, if you change an essential attribute of a thing you change the thing fundamentally. A dragon must breathe out fire if a little boy is going to enjoy his dragon. No one wants a dragon that sticks his tongue out at you. No. “Don’t say tongue, Grandpa.” What wisdom there is in a little child? You have to go to school for many years, and lose yourself in mysteries, before you can convince yourself that there is no God. A little boy with a plastic dragon can teach you much if you have a heart to learn. It is the pure heart that see God, and He can be seen everywhere.

- G. The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows his handiwork. We must understand the world, or we will make mistakes about God. But God didn't call us to come to heaven so that we would understand the world? No, He calls us to understand the world through the Scriptures, so that we could understand heavenly things. Jesus is the door, the lamb of God; the lion of the tribe Judah, the bright and morning star. He sows the seed of the kingdom and burns the tares and branches that are withered. He cannot tell us of heavenly things if we do not know earthly things. Go to the ant thou sluggard; go by the field of the slothful to understand the benefits of hard work. Learn from the cony that hides in the rock, because it is a feeble animal. Even the spider takes hold with her hands and is in kings' palaces.
- H. Most of all, in our very being, stamped upon the nature of the smallest child, is the witness of God's law and our misery of sin. Jesus said in Matthew 7: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Man does not have to read Moses to find the witness of the law against him. He knows what he wants for himself and he seeks his own pleasures and his own way. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes" [Prov. 21:2], and he will be first in his own cause. The baby will fight for his toy and old men will follow their lusts and desires. Our own desires testify against us for we seek that which pleases ourselves and not which pleases others, against the rule of Christ and against the words of the apostles.
- I. Because of sin, therefore, we do not turn to the Scriptures to find the meaning of things, but turn to our own reasoning and our own experience, and worship and serve the creature more than the creator. We turn to what we want, how we can please ourselves. We love the honey and eat so much that we vomit. We try to enrich our poor souls with silver and gold. We try to find love in lust and desire. We seek the wind and find nothing in our hands but dry husks. Our hearts are hard; we chafe against creation and try to change its attributes by drugs, by alcohol, even by false doctrines and lies, as if God were not the only interpreter of the world and those in it.
- III. God's preparation of the heart of man to receive theses revelation of Himself by the Holy Spirit. Verses 12-14
- A. Keep me from errors: Oh, there are so many errors! we cannot keep ourselves!
1. We will think that the world is good in itself. This is Idolatry.
 2. We may think the world is delusion. This is Unthankfulness and makes God a liar.
 3. We may think God is like the wind, irrational and capricious. This is Irrationalism and Pantheism.
 4. We may think God is like our wicked fathers, and turn away, because of the perversity and wickedness of men. This is Blasphemy
 5. We may be deceived by wolves who come in sheep clothing; not only false religious teachers, but false science teachers who misrepresent creation. This is also Idolatry and Heresy.
 6. We may think that God does not direct our steps but is far removed from us. This is Deism and humanism.
 7. Only in Christ's Spirit may we be renewed to love, power, and soundness of mind. He does this by the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation. Only by the Gospel do we receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit to call, regenerate, adopt, justify, sanctify, preserve, resurrect, and glorify us unto full salvation in Christ.
- B. God must prepare the heart of man to receive either His revelation in creation or in the Scriptures. Our hearts are heavily fortified against the truth, for we are double minded in all our ways, and can see nothing of God.
- C. Our faults are secret, and only God can open our eyes that we can see them.
- D. Cleanse us, O Lord, from sins and from presumptuous sins especially, for we know that he that stiffens his neck and hardens his heart shall be suddenly destroyed and that without remedy.
- E. This is the reason that Jesus told that proud Pharisee: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." All he will see is the kingdom of man, the creature and not the Creator. He will stuff himself and sate the creature, but he will know nothing of the joy of the Lord and the treasures of

wisdom and knowledge. Only the pure in heart will see God, and they do not climb up to heaven to do that.

- F. You see, we do not climb up to heaven to see God, for none can do that. Instead God came to us. How did he come? Meek and lowly, riding upon a donkey, flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bone. But when we saw Him, we see the Father. When we see the Lamb of God slain for our sins, we find the rest of God and learn to repose on His bosom, resting under the shadow of His wings, drinking of the water of life, trees planted by the rivers of water.
- G. Salvation is not us climbing up to God; but God coming down to us, living among us, teaching us from the lilies, the sparrows, the foxes, the publican, the lepers—He showed us God our Creator in the Creation, and then suffered to take away the curse to send us the Holy Spirit to open our eyes, bore open our ears, sweeten our taste, awaken our feelings, and send the sweet fragrance of His grace to quicken our hearts.
- H. This is where the true science begins in the heart and mind of every child, that is rooted and crushed out by the false science of the schools and academies which does not see the face of God. You have to go to these schools for a long time before you will be persuaded that there is no God, committing moral, spiritual, and social suicide.
- I. The pure in heart see Him in all things and therefore love the world that He has made. We speak not of that false science that sees only the machine and the material of creation and leads men to idolatry; but that which delights in the rivers, the hills, the flowers, the birds, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air—the heavens which declare the glory of God and the firmament which shows His handiwork. “All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” [Psalm 8:7-9]

Amen and Amen. “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”