

# The Precious Word of God

Psalm 19:1-14

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Psalm 19:1-14

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.
- 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts 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 forever;  
the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
- 13 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.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19 was written by King David, and has three sections.

First, the whole creation speaks of God's glory and what he has made.

David then writes about God's law and his word.

Finally, David prays in verse 14:

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight."

In the three sections of this psalm, three things speak:

**the creation speaks, God's word speaks, and David speaks.**

Human beings were created to speak of God's glory and to also enjoy His glory.

But speaking of God's glory is not an easy thing in our life here on earth.

When our spirit is down, we may doubt God's work.

When life is difficult, we may doubt God's power, we may not be willing to praise him or to speak of his glory.

I had a deep conversation with a brother last week.

He told me he was not happy, and sometimes he was angry at God.

Why?

Because he thought God should repay him for all the things he did.

He thought that people around him should value him more highly.

When people did not respond to him as he expected, he was disappointed, frustrated, and even angry at God.

He thought he deserved God's reward because he works very hard to serve him.

This Psalm will give us some answers that brother's situation.

Because of our sinful thoughts and deeds, we all deserve God's wrath and righteous judgment.

But when we trust in Christ, God gives us his blessings freely out of his grace alone.

This is a lesson we need to learn in our life.

This is the key to speaking of God's glory.

The entire creation is supposed to know God.

But not every human being recognizes or gives thanks to God.

On the contrary, we see that the world is full of evil and darkness.

These evils exist out in the world, but also in our hearts.

However, through God's word we can learn how our soul can be revived.

David teaches in this psalm how to praise the Lord when we are down in our spirit.

For today's message we will look at these three parts:

**Verses 1-6: God's general revelation;**

**Verses 7-10: God's special revelation;**

**Verses 11-14: our sanctification.**

**Verses 1-6: God's general revelation.**

General Revelation is how God reveals himself and his truth in creation.

Paul describes General Revelation in Romans 1:20.

20 "For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky.

Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—  
his eternal power and divine nature.

So they have no excuse for not knowing God."

David makes the same connection between creation and knowing God in Psalm 19:1-2:

1 "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge."

The Hebrew Bible has a different word order than this English translation.

In Hebrew, verse 1 says:

"the heavens declare the glory of God, his handiwork proclaims the sky."

This "ABC-CBA" pattern shows us a parallel between the glory of God and his handiwork.

In other words, God's glory is expressed by his handiwork, which is the heavens and the sky.

In verse 4a, David says:

4a "Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

In this verse, David transitions from the sky to the earth.

David reminds us that whenever we see the heavens and the earth, we see God's glory.

Creation reveals God's glory, reminding us of God's existence and goodness.

In addition to the heavens and earth, David tells us about time in verse 2:

2 "Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge."

The night and the day both speak about God's existence.

There is no excuse for us to say that there is no God.

There is no way for us to escape the fact that "this is my Father's world."

The world was created by God and its very existence is evidence of God.

Notice that David also speaks about time in verse 2.

In all our life, in all our deeds, we cannot hide from God.

He sees our hearts, moment by moment.

In verse 5 and 6, David gives us another illustration.

God sets a tent for the sun:

5 "which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,

and its circuit to the end of them,

and there is nothing hidden from its heat."

Of course, we know that the earth runs around the sun, not the other way around.

The image here is a parable.

What is the point of David's parable?

Just as no creature can hide from the sun's heat, no man can hide from God's presence.

Interestingly, the Hebrew word for "heat" is the same word for "wrath."

Based on David's wordplay here, let's think one more step further:

Just as no creature can hide from the sun's heat, no one can escape God's wrath.

What does God's wrath mean to us?

When we put God in debt thinking he owes us, we are controlled by self-desire and have no real freedom in our heart.

We all do this--we all want our own way in life, sinning in word and deed and thought.

That's why no one can escape God's wrath.

Sadly, God's general revelation cannot save us from God's wrath.

But David does not leave us without hope.

He does not leave us with only general revelation, accountable for our sins with no hope of freedom.

Instead, David speaks next about God's special revelation.

## **Now let's look at the second section in verses 7-10: God's Special Revelation.**

Special revelation is "special" because God uses miracles and his power to reveal more truth to us.

Your Bible is an important example of special revelation.

The word of God records for us God's redemptive plan and work.

Look at the 6 words used to describe the Word of God in verses 7-9:

Law, testimony, precepts, commandment, fear, and rules.

7 "The law of the Lord is perfect...

the testimony of the Lord is sure,

8 the precepts of the Lord are right...

the commandment of the Lord is pure,

9 the fear of the Lord is clean,

the rules of the Lord are true,"

Why did David apply so many different terms to describe the word of God?

A simple answer: because the word of God is so rich.

No single word expresses the wonderful fullness of God's word.

Each term here has a function that describes the attributes of God's word.

The first word is law or Torah.

David says in verse 7: "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul."

According to David, God's word is perfect, and its function is to revive our soul.

Why does our soul need to be revived?

Because if a soul is not changed by the Holy Spirit, it is under God's judgment.

The word of God reveals our spiritual problem, and also reveals the good news that resurrects our soul.

There is no goodness in us that can revive our soul, without God's help.

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:17--

17 "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Without hearing the word of God, we cannot have faith because we do not know who to put our faith in.

Jesus said a sheep knows the voice of its shepherd, and follows the shepherd because it recognizes his voice.

We were all dead in sin, but when we heard the word of God, the Holy Spirit worked through the word of God and revived our soul.

Interestingly, the word “revive” in Hebrew means “return” or “repent.”

Repentance is the work of God through his word.

The second function of the word of God is to make simple people wise.

When the Bible describes someone as simple or foolish, it does not mean they have a low IQ.

Rather, it means they do not walk in the way of the Lord.

Their decisions are based on their own selfish desires and have no reference to God’s will.

We are all foolish people before we come to Christ.

However, the word of God can make such a foolish person wise, to make us trust in the way of the Lord and have eternal life.

The third function of God’s word is to give us joy.

Anxiety is one of the major problems in our modern world.

The world offers different ineffective ways to deal with anxiety.

But according to David, our source of joy comes from God and does not exist anywhere else.

Therefore, to have joy means we need to have a good relationship with the Lord.

A good relationship with the Lord is inseparable from listening to and practicing God’s word.

Due to time limits, I am unable to discuss all six functions of God’s word in this Psalm.

However, David’s summary in verse 10 is illuminating:

10 "More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb."

Fine gold is what you can see, honey is what you can taste.

But God’s word is better than both.

Gold cannot bring us joy, or make us wise.

Money is not a measure of our happiness, not a measure of our wisdom, not a measure of our identity.

Gold and honey are objects of general revelation, good gifts with no power to save.

But through God’s special revelation, we can find wisdom, joy, and revival of soul.

## **Now we can turn our attention to the third section, verses 11-14 about our Sanctification.**

In the first section we saw that God’s general revelation speaks about God’s existence and glory.

In the second section, we saw how God speaks through special revelation.

His word changes our hearts and brings us life, joy, and wisdom.

In this third section, David himself speaks.

He desires to speak what is pleasing to God and to think what is also pleasing to God.

Listen again to verse 14:

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

David's prayer reveals the ongoing sanctification in David’s heart.

He wants God's help, so what he speaks and what he thinks in his heart will be pleasing to the Lord.

This sort of transformation is inseparable from the work of God’s word.

Now let's think about how God's word and God's law will bring us transformation and sanctification.

Verse 11 describes how the Word of God helps us:

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

Why is it a good thing for David to be warned by God's word?

Because without God's word, we would live a life based on our own desire rather than God's.

Without God's word, we wouldn't know what sin is.

Paul says in Romans 7:7,

7 "... if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin.

For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

Therefore, by the word of God the sins and errors in our life are uncovered.

Matthew Henry notes that: "All discoveries of sin made to us by the law, should drive us to the throne of grace, there to pray."

When we are familiar with God's word, the Holy Spirit will make us aware of our sins.

Our conscience will be much more sensitive to the things that are against God's word.

We cannot be saved by our good works and our good deeds.

But God's law is still an integral part of becoming more holy.

We are called to live for Christ, die with Christ, and live with Christ.

In verse 11 David said about God's laws: "in keeping them there is great reward."

Obedying God's word is not the foundation for our blessing--our blessing is given by Christ freely.

However, obeying God's word is a means for us to receive God's blessing.

Without obeying God's word and practicing God's word, our ability to discern sins cannot grow.

We will have no power to face and overcome temptations.

Thus, David says that in keeping God's word, there is great reward and blessing.

One last thing David mentioned in this Psalm: where our sanctification comes from.

In verse 13 David prays:

13 "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."

How can a sinner be innocent?

How can God accept a sinner's praise?

David's answer is the Redeemer.

This Redeemer is Christ, who is the creator of the heaven and earth that we see in general revelation.

All the creation should celebrate Christ, and all the rebellious will be held accountable before him.

Furthermore, Christ is the Living Word.

He is the one who brings God's special revelation into its climax.

Jesus lived a sinless life, but he was sentenced to death.

In his resurrection He has overcome death and given us the Holy Spirit.

Therefore his redemption can be applied to us.

The apostle Paul summarizes this well in 1 Corinthians 1:30.

"And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption."

In Christ alone, we find all these spiritual blessings.

We deserve nothing, but in Christ we find all undeserved blessings.

The gospel encourages us to love Christ, serve Christ, and live for Christ.

Brothers, sisters, and friends; are you thinking that your hard work makes God owe you something?

This thought will bind you and you will have no freedom.

We only deserve God's judgment because we rebel against his good law.

But Christ is willing to take away your guilt, and the power and the dominion of sin, so we can have freedom.

The thing is: are you in Christ?

Is Christ your most precious one and the only Savior in your life?

Let's pray now to him, that he will open our hearts and minds to know him truly.

Prayer.

All read Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.