

## THE LORD'S WORD

Psalm 19:7-17

**Intro:** Most of you have heard me say many times that I believe that the Bible has been revealed to us by God, but also that it is a revelation of God. That is why we speak of it as the Word of God. It came from Him, and it tells us about Him. It tells us that there are Three Persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

But we learn from the Bible that God has revealed Himself in other ways. In addition to the Bible, we are told in Romans 1:19 that God has placed in every human heart the consciousness, the realization, that there is a God. You can teach little children that there is a God, and they accept it! They know in their hearts that you are telling them the truth. This is what Romans 1:19 tells us:

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.

So there really are no true atheists.

And then we learned last Sunday from Psalm 19 that God is continually revealing Himself in nature. It is not a message that we can hear, but it is a message that we can see. Many of you are memorizing Psalm 19 and so you know what I am talking about. But so all of us will understand, let me point out what Psalm 19 tells us in the first three verses. This is what we read there:

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard (Psa. 19:1-3).

And, going back to Romans 1, we learn the same thing. Listen as I read Romans 1:20:

For the invisible things of Him (God) 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.

What we are going to learn this morning is that God is revealed by the written Word which He has given us. It is in our Bibles that we have a clear picture given to us about God. And we begin learning about God

right from the very first verse of the Bible. As most of you know, it tells us that “in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). And the farther we go in reading the Bible, the more we learn about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God wants us to know Him, to love Him, to worship Him, and to glorify Him. Nobody can ever accuse God of not making Himself known. His final and most complete way in which He revealed Himself was when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth. He said, and He is the only One Who could say it, “He that hath seen Me, hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).

The writer of the book of Hebrews began the epistle with these words speaking about the many ways, and then the final way, that God has revealed Himself. Listen to the way the book of Hebrews begins:

- 1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
- 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son . . . (Heb. 1:1-2a).

So it is very apparent that God wants us to know that He exists and much about what He has done, continues to do, and will do. We don't have everything in the Bible, but we have all that we need to know, and we are not even able to know all of that thoroughly. That is why we need to keep reading the Bible and learning all that we can from it.

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Now, as we return to Psalm 19 today we will begin with verse 7. In the first six verses we learn about how God has revealed Himself in nature. At verse 7 King David, the one who wrote this Psalm, gives us six titles which are used to describe the Bible. Then he gave six adjectives to describe that particular title of the Bible. And then he used six verbs to tell us what the Word will do. The only exception to this order is in the sixth title, but he went on in verses 10 and 11 to tell what we can expect from the sixth title of the Word. And the psalm ends in verses 12, 13, and 14 with David's prayer concerning the Word.

Now we will be doing well to get through all of these verses, but, if we don't get through, we will put the finishing touches on it next Sunday.

Now before we look at each title individually, let me point out an important fact about all of the titles. The title in each case is followed by the prepositional phrase, “of the Lord.” “The law of the Lord.” “The testimony of the Lord.” “The statutes of the Lord.” And so on to the end of

verse 9. There is a very important truth in all of these statements, or they would not be so similar. They suggest to us not only that they have come to us from the Lord, *but that they belong to the Lord*. And each time it is “of the Lord.” That is the reason I have given my message this morning the title, “The Lord’s Word.” There are other titles used in Scripture for the Word, but David was led by the Holy Spirit to select these, and he wanted every reader to know that although the Lord has given us His Word, it still belongs to the Lord, and we are responsible to Him for the way we use it. We have no right to add to it, nor do we have the right to leave any part of it out. It not only cannot be revised, *we dare not revise it*.

Now look at verse 7. As you consult different writers on this Psalm you may find different point emphasized, but I believe that generally we can accept them as pointing out particular features of the Word that we need to know.

In verse 7 the word “law” originally referred to the Mosaic Law in which God taught His people Israel what He wanted them to do, and what He did not want them to do, and all of the teaching was designed to make them what He wanted them to be. So I think we can say that the Bible as the Law teaches us. It is the doctrine of Scripture. It is “perfect” which means that it is complete. Nothing is left out. Nothing needs to be added to it. And I don’t believe that when David said, as it is translated, “converting the soul,” that he was talking about the Word as the instrument of our salvation, even though it is that, but the emphasis here is restoring, or reviving. When our hearts grow cold, or we stray from the will of God, it is the Word that is used to put us back on our feet and restoring fellowship with the Lord. And notice that the Word alone is sufficient for that. It is “perfect,” complete. We don’t need to look elsewhere.

“The testimony of the Lord” is God’s witness to the truthfulness of His Word. Some commentators say that this is God’s confirmation of His covenants, His promises, with His people. It is God’s confirmation of His prophetic Word in which we see the end from the beginning and all that leads up to the end. It gives us an understanding that is unique for the people of God. Man apart from God and His Word has no idea of what God is doing, and so he gropes along in his ignorance. A simple person is one who does not know what he needs to know. Only the Word makes us wise in understanding the Lord, or in trusting when we do not understand.

## Psalm 19:7-14 (4)

In verse 8 the statutes have to do with the decrees of God, such as the out-working of His sovereign will. Instead of something to be feared, they bring joy to our hearts, which is true joy

The commandment (singular) of the Lord is a summing up of all that has to do with our daily lives. They are without exception “pure” even though they may run contrary to the ways of men. However, being obedient to the Lord we find rejoicing for our hearts instead of deep regrets which always accompanies sin. The Word is always a true guide for us in life, leading to a greater understanding of the true way for us to live.

In verse 9 the Word is call “the fear of the Lord” because this is what it produces. We give God first place in our lives. We recognize the majesty of the Lord and how we need to submit ourselves to Him. “Clean,” as with several of these adjectives speaks of the holiness which is produced, here, by fearing the Lord. And the standards of right and wrong endure for ever. The world may change its standards, and it does, but God’s standards never change. Truth is never relative; it is always absolute. That is why we need the unchanging character of the Word of God.

“The judgments of the Lord” speak of His decisions as our Judge. His decisions are always true and righteous. They never change, and without exception they are always consistent with the character of God.

It is good to remember those words of Isaiah in the fifty-fifth chapter of his prophecy. There has never been a child of God who has not at some time, and usually, many times, struggled with the will of God. Look with me how Isaiah pled with the people of God in his day, and at the same time encouraging sinner to turn to the Lord and to accept the ways of the Lord. David, much earlier than Isaiah was saying the same thing in different ways. “The entrance (or opening) of God’s Word gives light, it gives under-standing to the simple (Psa. 119:130).

What was the result of David’s exposure to the Word of the Lord?

- 1) He considered it to be more valuable than the riches of the world, and sweeter than the taste of honey. This is in verse 10. It is impossible to learn the sweetness and profitableness of the Word with reading it and meditating upon it. Neglect it and your whole set of values will be distorted.
- 2) He found that the Word had kept him from sin by its warning, and that

Psalm 19:7-14 (5)

- unexpected blessing had come to him through obedience to the Word.
- 3) The last three verses of the Psalm are his prayer. So it shows that the application of the Word in his life had caused him to pray more.
  - 4) It had made him more conscious of sin in his life. Errors, secret sins, and presumptuous sins were exposed.
  - 5) His prayer was for understanding, cleansing, the restraining hand of God in his life lest he commit “the great transgression.” This could be the sin against the Holy Spirit, the sin unto death as in 1 John 5, or just coming to the place in his life where he was so involved in sin that he would have become a helpless slave.
  - 6) Think of David’s sins in this connection.
  - 7) Two things David saw as traps leading to sin: first, the words of his mouth, and second, the meditation of his heart. They needed to be turned to that which was acceptable to God, and he knew that only by God’s grace could he be kept from sin.

**Concl:** The true value of this Psalm is not in seeing how David struggled and was delivered, but what effect will it have upon us. It is possible to learn every word carefully of this Psalm, and yet gain nothing from it to help us be more pleasing to God, and to move ahead in what God’s will is in our salvation: Being made like the Lord Jesus.