

## Wisdom Psalms (Ps.1, 19, 119)

### An Exposition of Psalm 19

*God reveals His glory...*

#### From the heavens

(Vv.1-6)

He has built into his creation a demonstration of his deity and might that call forth praise to his name.

#### **As the Creator (Vv.1-2)**

In the midst of the staggering sheer size of space and the vast number of stars we are meant to be overwhelmed not by His works but by Him.

**V.1** Notice synonymous parallelism. **“The heavens”** correspond to **“the sky above”**. **“declare”** parallels **“proclaims”**. And **“the glory of God”** matches up with **“his handiwork”**. **V.2** Notice figure of speech. **“Day to day pours out speech”**. As a boiling pot bubbles over so one day cannot contain its news to itself. See the Apostle’s commentary on Psalm 19 in Romans 1:18-23. All His creation is his “handiwork”. Psalm 8 calls this “the work of His finger”. Ponder what is being communicated about God’s power!

#### **Apart from speech**

(V.3)

Verse 3 continues to shape our understanding of the nature of God’s revelation of Himself. Notice the limitation to this revelation; a non-verbal revelation.

#### **To the end of the world**

(v.4a-b)

And this mute message has traveled a distance as seen in v.4.

#### **With awesome beauty**

(Vv.4c-6)

And it goes with arresting power and beauty as noticed in vv.4-6. What do these metaphors carry to their readers in relation to God’s glory?

## **To the Scriptures**

**(Vv.7-10)**

His nonverbal communication is not enough. We need his words. From His works to His Word God reveals his glory. We see this beauty in what the word is and in what it does.

### **What the word is**

Though the beauty and power of Creation is a wonder to behold, it itself is not the point. The heart of the psalm is found in vv.7-10.

### **The Name**

Notice the repetition of the name *Yahweh* (that is “LORD”). All that the Word is is of the LORD. This six-fold use of His Name is to be contrasted with the one time use of the term “God” in v.1. In creation He reveals His power and wisdom and glory. In the Word he reveals Himself (see Jn. 1:1ff; Heb.1:1ff)

### **The synonyms (see Ps.119:1-8)**

*The law* Pointing to the road to life. It is the instructions of the Lord.

*The testimony* Pointing to the self-authenticating revelation of God. It is the confirmation of His character.

*The precepts* Pointing to the directions to the destination; the roadmap

*The commandment* Pointing to His authority; His sole right to speak over our lives.

*The fear* Pointing to results; the proper effect the Scriptures are to have on us.

*The rules* Pointing to discernment; the arbitration in the affairs of our lives.

### **The quality**

Free from blemish and utterly reliable and desirable is the Word (who is the Lord Jesus Christ; cf. Jn.1:1-18; 5:39-40; 14:6).

### **What the Word does**

*Reviving the soul - Making wise the simple - Rejoicing the heart - Enlightening the eyes - Enduring forever - Satisfying altogether*

Here's the point: When we understand; and I mean genuinely know the Creator through Jesus Christ, we can validly enjoy creation. We will not exchange the glory of God for the Creation. We will not embrace and be embraced by idolatry. We will be worshippers of our glorious God!

## **To the heart**

**(Vv.11-14)**

More desirable than gold, sweeter than honey, the Scriptures reveal God's glory which surpasses even that of His glory in Creation. We are now ready for the third and final movement in this psalm. How are we going to respond this day to this glory?

Revels in Scripture

v.10-11

Recoils from sin

v.12-14

## **An Application of Psalm 19 (look closely at v.11-14)**

A Prayer

An Outcome

He will not be guilty of *the great transgression*. The great transgression to which he refers is idolatry; desiring something not for God's glory or in such a way that we lose our contentment in God (cf. Rom.1:25 & Col.3:5).

All aim to please; some to please themselves and some to please others. But those whose hearts are gripped by His glory seek to please Him.

If we are ever to learn to sing of the glories of God in the midst of lament it will be because we have learned of Him through His word and then learned how to delight in Him through all that He has made.

