

1. Moving to Psalm 19 which is about God's glory

- A. Since we've recently looked at the heavens declaring His glory in Psalm 8
I'm just going to mention this declaration quickly then focus on the latter half of this Psalms
- 1). We will concentrate on what David has written about the sufficiency of God's Word

2. The war on the Word

- A. This is such an important subject – because there is a battle raging right now over Scripture
- 1). Is it really a divinely authored book – or merely a compilation of man's writings

Point: The answer to that couldn't be any more important

- A. If it is just man's opinions of what was right and wrong 1000's of years ago
Does it even matter today – or is it an outdated book like some claim – good for Israel not for OC
- 1). But if God authored this book – and God is immutable (Doesn't change)
If this is true: Mal 3:6 (ESV) “For I the LORD do not change...
a). Then what God said was wrong a 1000 years ago is still wrong today
And what God said was right 1000 years ago is still right today for all of His creation
- B. Plus, if it is authored by mere men who got some of it right and some of it wrong
- 1). How do I know which is which? How do I know what is truth and what is error?
 - 2). But if every word is divinely inspired – then I know what is correct – all of it!
a). Therefore all of it is authoritative and all of it is to be obeyed
And all of it becomes a sure foundation to build my life upon

Thought: We are kind of planting a flag here – who we are – so you know

- A. At GSBC We believe in the inerrant – infallible Word of God
- 1). Inerrant = Without error
 - 2). Infallible = We believe the text is incapable of error because it's author is God
- B. Therefore every page rings with the voice of God and every passage carries the authority of God

Transition: So the battle lines are being drawn – I want you to know what side we stand upon

- A. We believe the Word of God is a divinely authored book that is sufficient for all things
- 1). Therefore we will not panic like so many and turn to other methods to draw a crowd

Ps 19 (ESV) 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. (Now what we are going to concentrate on) ⁽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.

1. The Psalm is broken up into two sections – two different revealers of God's glory

- A. V. 1-6 God's glory is revealed in the World He made
V. 7-14 God's glory is revealed in the Word He gave
- B. Creation proclaims to us that there is a God – there is a powerful, intelligent designer behind all we see
- 1). This Psalm tells us it is making that declaration day and night – everywhere to everybody
 - 2). Paul says this declaration of the glory of God is clear enough to leave man without excuse

Ro 1:18–20 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ⁽¹⁹⁾ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ⁽²⁰⁾ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. *So they are without excuse.*

- 3). So the creation faithfully does its job testifying to the reality of its creator
 - a). But what does sinful man do with that? They willfully suppress it – don’t want to hear it

Ro 1:18 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, *who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*
 - b). Romans 1:25 tells us they willingly exchange the truth of God for a lie
 - 1a). Evolution is one – there are many others that are used to replace the true God
- 4). But God warns them that what you have seen in creation is enough to hold you accountable
 - a). You will stand before God without any excuse

Transition: So creation testimony tells man there is an intelligent powerful designer behind it all
That the complexity of what we see cannot have happened by accident = impossible

- A. So creation is designed to make man realize there is a creator they are accountable too
- B. But creation doesn’t fill in the details of who He is – what this accountability looks like
Doesn’t tell us how man is made right with Him – or if he needs to be made right
- C. That is why we need the second part of this Psalm – Vol 2 of God’s revelation
 - 1). In Scripture God fills in all the blanks – all the details about who He is and how to know Him
About what He expects from us – about our end if we neglect Him or accept Him
- D. Therefore we could call the world God made – Vol. 1 “General Revelation”
We could call the Word gave – Vol 2 “Specific Revelation”
 - 1). They work beautifully together – as God reaches out to lost man
- E. Let’s dig in to where we want to concentrate our focus

Ps 19:7–9 (ESV) 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.

1. In this section there are 6 statements about the Scriptures

- A. You’ll notice all 6 contain the words “The Lord” ... “The law of the Lord” ... “Testimony of the Lord”
- B. That is in all caps – therefore it is the name of God
 - 1). This is that holy, sacred name of God that is to be revered

Question: Why does David insert this in every line in this section?

- A. He is emphasizing the Scriptures are the Word of God not man – and they are to be treated as such
 - 1). This book is not to be trifled with – it is not to be changed because it might offend
 - a). It is not to be softened so the Pastor can be more popular – be cool
 - b). It is not to be treated like any other book
- B. Listen to what God says about our attitude towards His Word

Isa 66:2 (NLT) My hands have made both heaven and earth, and they are mine. I, the LORD, have spoken! "I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, *who tremble at my word.*

 - 1). That is how serious God wants us to be about His Word – reverential – eager to obey it
 - 2). I like what one writer said – “It is not only the book of God but the god of books” – stands alone
- C. So it’s God’s Word not man’s – it is to be handled carefully – accurately – worshipfully - obediently

Ps 119:161 (ESV) ... my heart stands in awe of your words.

 - 1). I fear the church corporate has lost this – may God return it to us!

Transition: Let's see the first of the six statements and we won't go any further than this today

The Law Of The Lord Is Perfect

Ps 19:7 (ESV) The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul...

1. Law (Hebrew "Torah") = identifies the Scriptures as being divine instruction

- A. Scripture is the instructions given by our creator on how to live life to it's fullest
 - 1). Every decent manufacturer provides a user manual for the product they sell
 - 2). God has done the same for us – He has given us a manual that tells us how life works

Transition: The Word is God's instructions to us on how to live life

2. The Law is perfect

- A. This means more than there are no imperfections, flaws or errors in the Word
 - 1). It does mean that but it means more than that
 - 2). The Hebrew Word has the idea of the word being complete - comprehensive

Point: God has provided everything you need in this book to know about Him, about salvation

- A. All you need to know about Christ from His birth, His redemptive work and His soon return
- B. All you need to know about living Christianity in a way that brings God glory and you satisfaction
 - 1). To live what Bible refers to as the Risen life or Abundant life – all contained in this book

Transition: Let's look a bit deeper into what this perfect set of instructions are meant to do

3. The law revives the soul

Ps 19:7 (ESV) The law of the LORD is perfect, *reviving the soul...*

- A. Revive = To bring or call back from wandering. To restore or revive

Question: What is the soul? What is the law of God aiming at here?

The Soul

- A. This refers to that inner person as opposed to the material body
 - 1). We could say it is the real person – the eternal us – that carries on beyond the grave
Either into the presence of the Lord in glory or into eternal punishment

Notice: So the Word of God is not aiming at an external, shallow reformation is it?

- A. That is mere religion – man turning over a new leaf – trying to be nicer without the heart being changed
 - 1). The Word takes aim at the soul – a radical transformation in the very foundations of who we are
It takes aim at our nature – to change that from that rebellious nature we inherited from Adam
And give us a new nature that is patterned after God Himself
- B. "Born again" have you ever marveled at what that really means?
 - 1). Just as a child has characteristics from their parents – because they inherited their nature
 - 2). When we are "Born again" we are given the nature of our Father! Born again!!!!

2 Pe 1:4 (ESV) by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them (the promises of salvation) *you may become partakers of the divine nature...*

- a). Just as a natural child is born with his father's nature and you can see that
- b). The spiritual child is born again with his father's nature! And you should see that!
- 3). Result is much more than just a shallow reformation

There is a radical disruption in who that person is

2 Co 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a *new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

- a). That new nature is wired with a new set of values, priorities, longings, loves
- b). This doesn't mean we aren't going to still struggle with sin

It does mean we have a different perspective on sin! We don't love it like we used too

1a). *We've been wired to enjoy something greater than the filth of this world!*

Point: So the Word's goal is to change you at the very center of who you are – your nature

- A. You're old nature was hostile towards God – didn't want Him ruling over you
This new nature is wired to love God – enjoy fellowship with Him - it desires to go His way

Transition: So the Word aims at your soul – and it does that in two ways

- A. Salvation and then sanctification
1). To move you into the family of God then to cause you to grow once you're there

The Word and Salvation

William Booth: We must have truth that will move the sinner.

1. What does that? The Word of God

1 Pe 1:23 (ESV) since you have been *born again*, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, *through the living and abiding word of God*;

- A. You know why I love that? I don't have to be slick or clever – or have a massive IQ to evangelize
1). None of that can overcome the tenacity of the flesh clinging to its independence from God
2). Our only hope to turn a soul from the devil to God – from hell to heaven
Is the Word of God empowered by the Spirit of God – it is what it was designed to do
- C. I love what Spurgeon said about the Word – referring to the Gospel as a lion
A great many learned men are defending the gospel; no doubt it is a very proper and right thing to do, yet I always notice that, when there are most books of that kind, it is because the gospel itself is not being preached. Suppose a number of persons were to take it into their heads that they had to defend a lion, a full-grown king of beasts! There he is in the cage, and here come all the soldiers of the army to fight for him. Well, I should suggest to them, if they would not object, and feel that it was humbling to them, that they should kindly stand back, and open the door, and let the lion out! I believe that would be the best way of defending him, for he would take care of himself; and the best “apology” for the gospel is to let the gospel out. Never mind about defending Deuteronomy or the whole of the Pentateuch; preach Jesus Christ and him crucified. Let the Lion out, and see who will dare to approach him. The Lion of the tribe of Judah will soon drive away all his adversaries.

- 1). And this lion is able to tear down all the objections raised against it
Preach the Word – arm yourselves with Scripture – let the lion out and watch what it can do

Thought: If I was the devil you know what I'd do – I'd do whatever it takes to get the Word out of church

- A. I'd let them work hard at clever methods – catchy little sayings – looking cool just like the world looks
1). I'd work hard at convincing them that those sorts of things will work
- B. At the same time I'd work hard to convince them that the Word of God is no longer sufficient
1). That this weapon forged in heaven – designed to convert the soul isn't enough
2). I'd take the Word out of the pulpit – and then I wouldn't care how many came into church
a). In fact I'd probably send them into that church – why? To deceive them
To help them think they're OK – when they've only become religious
b). Because without the Word there is no conviction of sin and no conversion of the soul
That pastor is simply preparing a mass of people to hear on that day “I never knew you”

Point: The Word does a couple of things that are necessary for a person to be saved

- A. The Word exposes the sinner's sin – convicting them of their guilt before God
1). It tears down any hope of them being able to save themselves – be good enough
- B. Then it graciously leads them to Christ who is God's only solution to cleanse them of that guilt

2. The Scripture exposes sin – it is designed to – it has to for a person to be saved

For the sinner to want to go to Christ they must see that they need to go to Christ – they're in trouble

- A. Why I love the Way of the Master – their evangelism technique – use it all the time
- 1). Most people believe they will go to heaven if they are nice, sincere, try to be good
 - 2). So Ray Comfort starts with the law – “You think you're good enough? Can we test that?”
 - a). He uses 4 of the 10 commandments
- B. Have you ever lied? No matter how small. What does that make you? A liar
Have you ever stolen anything? Yes. What does that make you? A thief
Have you ever looked on another with lust? Scripture says you are an adulterer at heart
Have you ever used the Lord's name in vain? Scripture calls that blasphemy
- 1). So by your own words – you admit you're a lying, thieving, blaspheming, adulterer at heart
 - a). And I've only used 4 of the ten commandments
 - 2). Do you still think you'll go to heaven? That a just judge can just overlook all those 1000's of sins?
 - a). Amazing how many will say “No. I would go to hell!”
That is great news when a sinner is brought to that point
 - 1a). Now they are ready to hear the good news about God's solution through His Son
- C. I remember a well-known Pastor in the early 90's starting his service with an evangelistic call
Just say “You know why you're here! Get up here”
- 1). I'd think – are you sure they know? Are they just trying to be part of the crowd
Or do they know they are sinners and Christ is the only hope
 - 2). **That difference is huge** – if you come to God just to give Him a shot – see what He will do
 - a). You'll eventually leave because He will let you down
What I mean by that is that He will not give you everything you want!
 - 1a). He gives you everything you need – including trials! Difficulties!
 - 2a). Those trials drive away those who haven't come for the right reason
This is not what I signed up for! Oh you should have read the contract better!
 - b). But if you come because you know you're a sinner and He's the only solution
 - 1a). You'll stay – you didn't come for a bigger bank account – more of the world
You came because you needed forgiveness – and He was the only solution
 - 2a). You won't be disappointed – in fact you'll fall in love with Him more and more
As you realize more and more the depth of your sin and how much He loved you
When He willingly allowed the filth of your sin to be poured onto His absolute purity
- C. The Pastor does his people no good by not softening the truth about themselves
- 1). I want to build up their self-image – No! They need their sin exposed – but don't stop there
Then tell them what God has done for them – and they will fall in love with Him
Tim Keller: Here's the gospel: You're more sinful than you ever dared believe; you're more loved than you ever dared hope.
 - a). Realize that and NOW you're ready to fall in love with God and His Son!
 - b). Now He will become your life – Now your heart is so captured you will never leave
 - 1a). How could I leave the love of my life! My rescuer! NO I will worship Him!

Transition: The word of God thrills me – the power in this book is amazing!

- A. That brings us to the second part of what the Word does in its reviving the soul
Salvation THEN sanctification - Never reverse that!

The Word and Sanctification

1. Sanctification defined: Progressively becoming like Jesus

- A. Growing in practical holiness – enjoying more and more victory over sin
 - 1). This is a process that starts the moment you're saved and carries on until glory
Anger is replaced with patience – prejudice with love – selfishness with godly serving...
 - a). As the Word continues to expose sins – the Spirit enables us to deal with them
Slowly but surely we become more and more like Christ
- B. The tool the Spirit uses in this process is the Word
Jn 17:17 (ESV) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- C. I like the way Peter puts it
1 Pet 2:2 (NASB) like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
 - 1). Not saying only newborn spiritual babies are to crave the Word
It is saying all believers should crave the Word like a newborn baby craves milk!
 - 2). Why? Because this is our spiritual food – how we grow
 - a). We start starving when we put the Bible down – the flesh starts taking over

Transition: Let's see how that works

2. The word and worldliness

Ro 12:1–2 (ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ⁽²⁾ Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- A. V. 1 – in view of God's mercies – what He has done in our salvation
The reasonable thing is to present the whole of our lives as living sacrifices – this is an act of worship
 - 1). We can say we worship but here is where worship starts – a foundation it is built upon
 - 2). Then all of the other “Acts” of worship flow out of this surrender
- B. V. 2 shows us one of the ways we do that – we MAKE the time to renew our mind in the Word
V. 2 also presents two options – one for those who do – one for those who don't
- C. The options: Conformation or transformation
 - 1). Conformed to the world – or transformed by the Word

Thought: Let's see how this works

- A. As we walk through the world all kinds of spiritually deadening toxins enter into our minds
 - 1). Through the conversations we overhear – radio commercials – billboards – it's everywhere
 - 2). We live in a world that has become a spiritual cesspool – sin abounds
- B. What do we do to wash out those pollutants so they don't take root and affect us
 - 1). We must renew our mind with the Word – we must replace those lies with truth
Ps 119:9 (ESV) How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
Watch the growth here: 2 Co 3:18 (ESV) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being *transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.*
 - a). As I gaze upon the glory of the Lord the Spirit uses that to transform me
Where do I see that glory? In the Scriptures!
 - b). As I gaze upon Christ – see how He responded to situations – see His character etc.
The Spirit changes me – I become more and more like Him = sanctification

Point: This is why we are told to crave the Word – so we grow! So we are transformed

Because the only other option is to be conformed to the world

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- A. If you have put the Bible down – if you very rarely read it
 - 1). You are slowly but surely being affected by all those toxins – they are deadening you spiritually
 - 2). You're thinking is becoming more and more worldly
 - B. This is why I say I never go for counsel to somebody who isn't reading their Bible regularly
 - 1). I'm going to get counsel polluted by the flesh and the world – they aren't hearing from God!
 - C. I long for this church to be a congregation addicted to the Word of God
 - 1). I pray as we look through its beauty in this little series – you'll see what a gift it is
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CONCLUSION AND CALL

1. So our first point: The Word of God is God's instruction for living

- A. It is comprehensive and provides all we need to live for His glory and our satisfaction

2. We saw the word is designed to reach the soul – converting it (salvation)

- A. What a tool God has handed us to use in a world that desperately needs Him

- 1). But we must use it

Romans 10:14 (NLT) But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

- B. My prayer for this church is that God would move us out of the comfort zone – so we evangelize

C. T. Studd (famous missionary to China, India and Africa): Some want to live within the sound of the church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.

- 1). Amen! The lost need to be rescued and God has given us all we need to do that
 - a). How tragic to go through life never telling anybody
 - 2). Start with the tracts back there – so easy – but it will move you to the next step
 - a). Evangelism table – day workers (want to try open air preaching?)

We have some other opportunities that the Lord is starting to open up

3. We saw the word is designed to bring growth to those that are saved (sanctification)

- A. The Christian is to crave the Word like the newborn craves milk

- 1). It will cause growth – it will also protect you by cleaning out those spiritually deadening toxins