

a hammer has been worn out on the anvil of God's Word!

(6) It Enriches—It is better than gold or silver (Proverbs 3:13-15).

(7) It Satisfies—Honey satisfies the body; but the Word satisfies the soul.

(8) It Warns—It is better to prevent sin and avoid trouble than to confess sin and try to remedy mistakes. Knowing the Word and obeying it guides the believer on the safe path.

(9) It Rewards—Money cannot buy the rewards of a godly life: a clean conscience, a pure heart, joy, peace, and answered prayer.

We are told in v. 11 that there is reward in keeping God's word. It is not just knowing. The reward comes in the 'doing': *"This man shall be blessed in his doing of it"* (James 1:25).

3. HE SPEAKS IN THE SOUL (PSALM 19: 12-14)

No person can understand his or her own heart (Jeremiah 17:9). We need the mirror of the Word to reveal our sins to us (James 1:22-25). The psalmist closes by asking God to reveal his secret sins to him; (see Psalm 139: 23-24).

David asks not only to be cleansed of secret faults, but to be restrained from running head-long into open sin. This kind of wicked abandonment to sin leads to slavery, and sin becomes the master of the life. Romans 6:1 tells us that sin should not have dominion over us. Of course, it is by allowing the Word of God to control our lives that we get victory over sin.

By "great transgression" in v.13, the psalmist seems to mean a "sin unto death" or a repeated rebellion against God that brings forth His wrath. It is by an accumulation of the little secret sins of v. 12 that the person grad-

ually walks into the great sin. It is important that Christians confess their sins immediately and allow the Word and the blood to cleanse the heart (1 John 1:9).

The prayer of v. 14 ought to be on our lips and in our hearts all day long. The meditation of the heart controls the words of the mouth (Mark 7:14-23). The word "meditation" here has the image of a musician plucking the strings of a harp. Who controls the music of your heart, God or Satan?

Meditation is to the heart what digestion is to the body; it is the taking in of the Word of God and making it a part of the inner being. As the heart and mind think on the Word all day long, the Spirit guides the life. This is what it means to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16) and to have the spiritual mind (Romans 8:1-8).

Is your Bible all to you that God wants it to be? Read this psalm again and ask God to enable you to love the Word, live in it, and obey it—and He will bless you.

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God Speaks To Mankind

Psalm 19





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2 TIMOTHY 2:15, 3:15-17

God Speaks To Mankind

Psalm 19

Recently I was reading a commentary by Warren Wiersbe on Psalm 19 and was very impressed and moved by his words. I would like to share them with you. He is using the KJV as his basic text.

God's revelation to man is the theme of this psalm. It is amazing that God speaks to us at all. Men and women are sinners by nature and have no desire to listen to God, yet He graciously continues to speak. God speaks to us in three ways:

I. HE SPEAKS IN THE SKIES (PSALM 19:1-6)

God's wisdom, power, and glory are seen in His creation. Modern science would have us study "natural laws" and leave God out, but the psalmist looked at the marvels of heaven and earth and saw God. See also Psalms 8 and 29, as well as Isaiah 40:12-31.

Jesus saw His Father's handiwork in the lilies and the birds (Matthew 6:24-34). Both by day and by night, God's creation is speaking (v. 2), but this speech is not heard with the human ear. Verse 3 says, "*There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard*" (NIV). We hear the voice of God in creation by seeing His wisdom and power. Certainly so complex an entity as our universe (and the universes beyond our own universe) demands a Creator and Sustainer. To believe that the universe evolved out of nothing and arranged itself in this orderly manner is folly.

Creation speaks a universal language to all nations (vv. 3-4). It is this fact that Paul used

in Romans 1:18-32 to prove that all people everywhere are under the wrath of God. "Are the heathen lost?" is an oft-repeated question, and the answer is "Yes." On what basis are they lost if they have never heard the Gospel? On the basis of God's revelation in creation. The non-Christian see God's power and wisdom, His "eternal Godhead," in creation and know that they have a responsibility to Him. But they still reject him. Paul uses Psalm 19:4 again in Romans 10:18.

2. HE SPEAKS IN THE SCRIPTURES (PSALM 19:7-11)

The heavens declare God's glory, and the Scriptures declare His grace (Hebrews 1:1-3). This law, testimony, commandment, and word, of course, is a personal revelation from God, for the name used is "LORD," meaning "Jehovah." This is the personal, covenant name for God.

A. What the Bible is ...

(1) The perfect law—There is no error in the Bible, either in historical fact or in spiritual truth. Of course, the Bible records the lies of men and of Satan, but the total message of the Bible is that of truth (See Psalm 119:128).

(2) The sure testimony—The Word does not change; it is sure and steadfast, - Psalm 119:89. It is God's testimony to man, His witness of what is true and right (See Matthew 5:18).

(3) The right statutes—"Statutes" means "precepts, rules for daily living." Some rules are wrong rules; God's Word is right. Obeying the Word brings blessing to daily life.

(4) The pure commandment—
(See Psalms 12:6; 119:140; Proverbs 30:5).
The "sacred books" of some world religions are anything but pure, but God's Word is pure, even

when dealing with sin. Nothing in the Bible, rightly understood, could lead a person into sin.

(5) The clean fear of the Lord—The phrase "fear of the Lord" (v.9) is another reference to "the Law," since the Word of God produces a reverence for God (See Deuteronomy 4:10; Psalm 111:10). To fear God makes a person clean; to worship heathen idols makes a person filthy.

(6) True, righteous judgments—God's evaluations of men and things are true; He knows all things completely. It pays for the Christian to believe what God says and not to depend on his own evaluation. Lot made this mistake and lost everything (Genesis 13).

(7) Better than gold—What a treasure is the Bible (Psalms 119:72; Proverbs 8:10; 16:16).

(8) Sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103). The spiritual Christian does not need the artificial things of this world for inner satisfaction; God's Word satisfies the spiritual appetite.

B. What the Bible does

(1) It Converts—This is the same as "restores" in Psalm 23:3. The Word converts the sinner from his ways and restores the saint when he wanders. It refreshes and heals.

(2) It Makes Wise — Divine insight is given by the Holy Spirit through the Word. Read Psalms 119:97 –104; Isaiah 8:20; Jeremiah 8:9; Colossians 1:9; James 1:5.

(3) It Causes joy—The spiritual believer finds joy in the Word (Jeremiah 15:16).

(4) It Enlightens—"The entrance of Your words gives light" (Psalm 119:130 NKJV).

(5) It Endures—Other books fade and are forgotten, but God's Word remains. Many