

Summer In The Psalms 2 - #8 – The Handiwork Of God

Psalm 19

One of my favorite worship songs was written in Sweden in the 1850's. A Swedish pastor was caught in a sudden, violent thunderstorm. He found shelter and watched the display.

Then, just as suddenly, the storm ended, and he was amazed at staggering beauty that followed. When he got home, he fell to his knees and worshipped. He wrote -

Verse 1

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made
I see the stars I hear the mighty thunder
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

Chorus

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art

Long before, David was drawn into the same wonder and worship of God. He too wrote a song of Worship. In our "Playlist for the Soul" – today we dial up Psalm 19. In it, David experiences the **"awesome wonder"** of God and writes of **His handiwork**.

One note before we begin:

As glorious and wondrous the handywork of God in creation, even more so is His ongoing handywork in His children!

Creation is finished. God is not. The New Creation His is building in us is even more glorious. As the children's song put it-

***"He's still working on me
To make me what I ought to be
It took Him just a week to make the moon and the stars
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars;
Oh, how patient He must be -
He's still working on me!"***

Let's discover what He is working to do in us this morning!

I. The Handywork Of Creation. Vs. 1-6

David calls us to wonder and worship.

Note: David is **not calling us to worship nature**. He does not lead us to the glory of creation. Instead, He points to creation which bears the fingerprint of God! The object of Worship: “The glory **of God!**”

**Read and explain vs. 1-6 – The object of David’s wonder.

With David, we sigh, “How great Thou Art”!

Then, God transitions **from worshipful observation to insightful revelation.**

It is as if the unspoken message was along these lines:

David, the **God who *did all of that* – Your God-** is going to share with you some of the tools He has made available for His continuing work in you!

II. The Helps of the Creator. Vs. 7-11

Paul wrote,

*“For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. For **we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath **before ordained** that we should walk in them.”* Ephesians 2:8-10

Long before Paul, **David connected with the truth of God’s workmanship, His “handywork” in us.** God revealed **six Divine Provisions given to help us in that adventure**. (Quest)

A. The Provisions. Vs. 7-9

1. ***“the law of the Lord”*** – “perfect, converting the soul” vs. 7
“torah”- Writings; Cumulative – **the Word of God!**
2. ***“the testimony of the Lord”*** – “sure... making wise the simple”. Vs. 7
3. ***“statutes of the Lord”*** – “right... rejoicing the heart” Vs. 8
“precepts; statutes” – **“mandates. Orders”** – “This is to how it is to be done.”

4. ***“the commandment of the Lord”*** [Singular!] – “pure, enlightening the eyes” Vs. 8

Singular!

“mitsvah”

Deut. 6 – **The great commandment? The Law?**

5. ***“fear of the Lord”*** – “clean, enduring forever” vs. 9

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” - Solomon

6. ***“judgments of the Lord”*** – “true and righteous altogether” Vs. 9

B. The Pricelessness of the Provisions. Vs. 10-11

Vs. 10- Better than gold! (Really rich!)

Vs. 10- Sweeter than honey! (The ultimate satisfaction/pleasure)

Vs. 11- Safety! “Warning! Warning!”

Vs. 11 – Great reward!

This is really a list of our greatest desires and needs...

David:

Gold can fill your wallet.

Honey can satisfy your taste.

But only God can satisfy your heart.

III. The Hope of His Children. Vs. 12-14

When we speak of hope, many things come to mind.

- **The eternal hope** we have in Jesus from the moment we trust Him as personal Savior.
- **The eventual hope** of faith becoming site in the eternal home He has prepared for those who know Him.

We are the continuing “workmanship”, the “handywork” of God.

Paul, speaking of that ongoing building project, spoke of **a hope made possible every breath of a believer, as “Christ in you, the Hope of glory” works to bring His wonder, the glorious, into every aspect of our lives.**

David closes with much the same idea. The movement climaxes in His turning in hope and faith to His creator asking His wondrous work.

A. The humble acknowledgement: *“Who can understand his errors?”* vs. 12

While we are fearfully and wonderfully made, **we are the creation, not the Creator!**

That which is “made” never has the capacity to understand and choose as if they were the Creator! The lie spoken in the garden and whispered in our depraved nature is that we can. That we can be our own “god”, and that we have the ability to do so. We don’t.

1st Outward Evidence of The Filling Of God’s Spirit: Submission!
David humbles himself before His Creator, Savior, God.

B. The honest, earnest prayer. David asks three things –

1. “*cleanse me from secret faults*” vs. 12

- “He that covereth his sin shall not prosper”
- “If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

2. “*Keep me from presumptuous sins*” vs. 13

David knows the **tendency of the heart**: *“To presume rather than pause and pursue God’s thoughts!”*

We presume instead of pausing to pursue God’s thoughts.

David has **fought, and often failed, the urge** within him to do things **his way rather than God’s.**

David **knows the enslavement** that comes by presuming himself to be “free” from God! Selfish and sin dominates and rules when given free rein!

3. “*Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight*”

Wow! Look at what comes from wonder and worship!

- Our **words become subject** to Him!
- Our **inner thoughts** are not only known by Him but should yield before Him!
- The Object of it all: "**In thy sight!**"

C. The One Worthy Of Our All:

Vs. 1- The Wonder and Worship of "God" – "Elohim" – Genesis 1:1 – Mighty Creator God!

Vs. 14 – Even greater – The Wonder and Worship of "**O LORD**" – Jehovah!
Jesus! - "**my strength and my redeemer**"

Perhaps David's ending of the Psalm played in the background of the future worship writer – They actually both end up at the feet of Jesus -

Verse 3

*And when I think that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin*

Verse 4

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home what joy shall fill my heart
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim my God how great Thou art*

Why Not Now?!!

His Handywork!

One day we'll live in His new heaven.

Today, He is building something of His new heaven in us.