

Psalms 19-21

This morning again we are going to cover 3 Psalms and next week we will be looking at just 2 Psalms as we cover a prophetic Psalm in chapter 22 that speaks of our Lord and His crucifixion and then we'll look at Psalm 23 which is a Psalm that speaks of the shepherding work of God in our lives.

For this week let's go ahead and jump into our text as we are told that chapter 19 is a Psalm of David and it is written to the chief musician and just for a little piece of information so you can have it in your mind 55 of the 150 Psalms that are written are to the chief musician.

Well let's get into the text here if you look with me at verses 1-6 which say the following **19 The heavens declare the glory of God;**

And the firmament shows His handiwork.

²Day unto day utters speech,

And night unto night reveals knowledge.

³There is no speech nor language

Where their voice is not heard.

⁴Their line has gone out through all the earth,

And their words to the end of the world.

In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

⁵Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

⁶Its rising is from one end of heaven,

And its circuit to the other end;

And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

We can see here that David was once again pondering on the creation of God and how as he looked at the heavens that it declared the glory of God.

Specifically in this Psalm David is thinking about the stars and the moon and the sun and so I can imagine that David may have been thinking about his shepherding days when he was a boy before he became the king. David probably spent many nights in nature mostly by himself as he watched over the flocks. Being in nature just has a way of putting your attention on the fact that there must be a God.

As we talk about creation I cannot help but think of Romans 1:18-20 which say the following ¹⁸ **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,** ¹⁹ **because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.** ²⁰ **For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,**

I believe if you actually look at the scientific evidence that the world around us produces that you can't help but come to the conclusion that there is a Creator that intelligently designed the world that we live in.

When you look at the vast number of stars in the universe it is mind boggling and really I don't think scientists can even really calculate how many stars there are in total. With the naked eye you and I can see roughly 2,500 stars in the night sky but with advanced telescopes

and scientific instruments scientists estimate there are 100-400 billion stars and that is only within our own Milky Way galaxy.

If you step outside of the Milky Way Galaxy scientists believe there are roughly 2 trillion galaxies with each one containing its own multitude of stars. One website said you could consider the stars and counting them to be similar to the grains of sand that are on the planet. I would challenge you to just grab one hand of sand on the beach and try to count those grains...it's impossible.

Speaking of stars you and I should be thankful for the star that God has given us which we call the sun. If you just look at the sun itself and you realize how much power and energy and heat it puts off its quite incredible.

How many of you have heard of what is referred to as the "Window of life" or the "Habitable zone" and this is a new one for me but it is also referred to as the "Goldilocks" zone? This is the range from the sun where it is not too hot or cold for liquid water to exist on a planet's surface...It's also referred to as the distance from the sun that life can exist and thrive.

The earth just so happens to sit the perfect distance away from the sun making this little tiny place the perfect place to promote life. Scientists that deny creation suggest that we just randomly happened to be the perfect distance from the sun. When you look at all the things required to promote life and the probabilities to produce life the odds are insurmountable to say the least. It's much easier to believe in a Creator than a random chance producing what is before us.

When you add to this the fact that the earth happens to have a tilt on it of 23.5 degrees give or take which allows the earth to maintain its current seasons and climate the evidence mounts that someone knew what they were doing when they made planet earth.

Now David as he wrote this actually says that the sun in verse 6 is on a circuit...and you and I might wonder how David knew that? I believe it may be that the Lord spoke to his heart as He was leading David to write this Psalm down. Previously some scientists scoffed at this saying the sun is stationary but we now know that the sun is traveling through the Milky Way Galaxy at what some estimate to be 600,000 miles per hour and the planets rotate around the sun as it does so.

Now I want to be clear here that I am no scientist and I am just doing my best here to gather some statistics and information but it doesn't take long for me to just be flabbergasted at how amazing the creative powers of God Almighty are...And really this just touches the tip of the iceberg so to say.

Now as we move forward here in our text you and I can say with confidence just by observing the world around us that there is a Creator, that someone was in charge of how this world and we as humans exist and function...You and I might look at the sky and the world around us and say that yes there is a God but what Creation cannot do for the most part is communicate to us who God is...Creation in general speaks of the fact there is a God but the question then becomes what is the character of God, what pleases God, how can I honor God and live for Him and that's what David addresses next in our text.

Look with me at verses 7-9 which say the following ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

So Creation speaks of the fact there is a God and the Word of God gives us the details of who God is. David could look and see that God had communicated so much to him as he simply studied and applied the Word of God to his life. Now at this point David as he was going through life of course did not have the Bible the way that we do today.

Probably he only had access to the first 5 books of the Bible which is known as the Torah or the law as verse 7 says but he also had some of the Psalms and then there was probably the book of Job and maybe the book of Esther along with the books of Joshua and Judges. Today you and I have the complete revelation of God before us as recorded in the Bible.

Now in these verses we actually learn 6 different things about the Word of God and I wanted to take just a few minutes to point these out to you this morning. I want to just say before I do this that the Word of God is by far the most important resource you and I have as believers in Jesus Christ.

It's a sad thing today but there are many that spend a lot of time on all kinds of books that may be helpful to the Christian walk but there is no substitute for the Word of God. I am personally convinced that if all the books in the world were gone except for the Bible that you and I

as followers of Jesus as we studied the Word and looked to apply it to our lives would find that we have all that we need.

Make sure as you follow Jesus that the Bible is by far the book you spend the most time studying and reading. The Word teaches us how to follow Jesus, how to pray, how to relate to others, how to witness to the world....it teaches us all about the Messiah of course and the Savior who would come into the world that humanity might find a restored relationship with the Father...The bible teaches us about sin, creation, forgiveness, humility, what real love is and so much more...The Bible is sometimes said to be an acronym that means Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth...Everything we need to prepare us for an eternity in heaven is found right here before us.

I have to ask you today do you really value the Word of God? Do you read through it on a daily basis? Do you meditate on it? Do you take it into your heart and mind and pray through it? If not you are missing out and really if you aren't plugging into the Word of God on a daily basis then I have to tell you that there will be other things in the world that will influence the decisions you make and the way you live.

The Word of God is what centers us and keeps us sane I would say as we pass through this perverted world. It helps us to know that the events of the world that are taking place around us are not a surprise to God. The Word speaks of the past, it speaks of the present and it speaks of the future...The Word of God is a sure foundation that we can build our lives upon and we certainly should be building our lives upon it.

Ok, let me get down off of my soap box here but look if you aren't reading the Word of God you should do so and I would exhort you as a

brother in Christ to get busy reading the Word and do it everyday and make it a priority in your life and I can tell you after 25 years of reading it regularly it has dramatically changed my life for sure.

Ok so I mentioned there were six principles of God's word that can be found in verses 7-9.

First we can see in verse 7 that the law of the Lord is perfect and that means that there is not one thing wrong with it. Not that long ago in our study through Psalms over in chapter 12:6-7 we were told this about God's Word when it says **The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.**

⁷You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.

God's Word has certainly stood the test of time, His words are perfect and as we look at the Word of God and we see it for what it is the Word actually converts our soul we are told. It is the Word of God that truly changes us, the Word convicts us of sin and reveals the perfect standards of God. The Word also reveals the forgiveness of God that is only found in Jesus Christ.

The second thing we learn here is that the testimony of the Lord is sure and you could say that the word testimony could be said to be the word witness...so the word of God is sure like we have said and we can build our lives upon it.

I have to say that it's true that the Word of God takes a simple person and makes them wise. I wouldn't say I am wise by any stretch of the imagination but I would say that the Word of God has certainly made me understand what is right and good in God's eyes and it has taken

me from a person that lives only for the flesh to a person that seeks to live for the Spirit of God...The Word has so much to say to us in every situation that we face in life.

Third in verse 8 we are told that the statutes of the Lord are right and that they produce joy in the heart. You and I can know that whatever the Word of God says it is always right and good...and as I follow what the Word says as I apply it to my life by the power of the Holy Spirit it certainly does produce joy in my heart to live for Him.

Fourth we are told that the commandment of the Lord is pure and it enlightens the eyes. Absolutely the Word opens my eyes to how and why this world functions the way it does. The Word opens my eyes to see the depravity of man and the goodness of God.

Fifth we are told here that the Fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever...AS the Word of God is part of our lives it certainly produces within us not a fear of God that we are trembling and unable to function but instead a huge and deep respect is produced in our lives for all He has done and can do.

And then finally we are told the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. Certainly God's Word leaves us in a place that we know without a doubt that God knows exactly what He is doing and that every decision of God is perfect, pure and holy. When life is all said and done we will see and acknowledge that the Word of God and the way that God judges and sees things is perfect.

Verse 10 says ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

David now says that the law of the Lord, the testimony of God, the statutes of the Lord, the commandments of God, the fear of the Lord and the judgments of the Lord **are all to be desired more than gold even fine gold and that the Words of God are sweeter than honey.**

Look at verse 11 which says ¹¹Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. We should keep in mind that keeping God's Word provides a great reward in life. I can tell you that I don't regret for one minute the time I have spent in God's Word. Sadly I don't always cherish it the way that I should but I know that it's really one of the primary reasons for who I am today.

Certainly God's Word warns us doesn't it? It teaches us the difference between right and wrong. Over in the book of Hebrews 4:12 the Word says this ¹²**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

And then over in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Paul said this ¹⁶**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

God's Word certainly does warn us and train us in the way we should go.

Look with me at verses 12-13 which say ¹²Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

¹³Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;

**Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless,
And I shall be innocent of great transgression.**

This is almost like a prayer that David has and first he says “who can understand his errors?” I think that’s a true statement for you and I know that in the book of Jeremiah that the Word says that a person cannot even know their own heart.

So David here asks the Lord to help him with the deepest parts of his heart and asks the Lord to cleanse him from those things that really he may not even know about himself. Often times you and I can’t even see our own flaws...we can be blinded to our failures at times.

David then after speaking of the matters of the heart goes on to say keep me from presumptuous sins and that word means a sin that is committed with full knowledge that you are violating God’s will...In other words Lord help me to have a pure heart for I know I can sometimes make some pretty poor choices. David here even asks the Lord to keep those sins from having dominion over him...and that as the Lord did this David knew he would be seen as blameless and innocent of great transgressions. The Word of God just has a way of cleansing our ways and keeping us from living for the ways of the world or the ways of the flesh.

Verse 14 says ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.**

If you have been around Christianity for long you have probably heard these words found in verse 14. What a great prayer from David here as

he asks the Lord to help the words of his mouth to be acceptable in the sight of God and the thoughts of his heart and mind as well.

I think it's the sign of a mature believer when you can look at their mouths and see that their words are filled with grace and mercy towards others. When someone is mature in the faith you can see it just as you watch what they talk about and what their lives revolve around.

I would ask today what comes from your mouth? Are the words of your mouth life giving or life destroying? Do you speak words of kindness and gentleness? Do you speak the Gospel to others? Or do you talk about the things of this world?

And then how is your heart today? What is it that makes you tick in life? What is it that you spend your time thinking about? Do you think of your finances or your favorite sports team or your next meal or even your family? Or do your thoughts primarily revolve around the Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom?

David then concludes by declaring that God is his strength in life and that God is his redeemer and that word for redeemer is the word "Goel" and it means a kinsman redeemer and certainly Jesus is the relative that has purchased us out of slavery and paid the debts that we owed. You can read the book of Ruth to learn a little bit more about what a kinsman redeemer is.

All right we have 2 chapters left here this morning and we are going to work our way through these pretty quickly if you look at chapter 20 it's written to the chief musician by David and verses 1-5 say the following **20 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble;**

May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;

² May He send you help from the sanctuary,

And strengthen you out of Zion;

³ May He remember all your offerings,

And accept your burnt sacrifice. *Selah*

⁴ May He grant you according to your heart's *desire*,

And fulfill all your purpose.

⁵ We will rejoice in your salvation,

And in the name of our God we will set up *our* banners!

May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.

Now really this is like a prayer that is being prayed on behalf of another person and several commentators say that this is probably a prayer by the people on behalf of the king...kind of like an intercessory prayer. If so David is writing down what others are thinking and praying for him which is kind of unique and interesting to think about.

I want you to just briefly notice several of the requests that are found here. First it says May the Lord answer you in trouble, then it says may the name of the God of Jacob defend you, May He send you help it says, me He strengthen you, may He remember you and your offerings and accept your sacrifice, May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill your purpose, and then at the end of verse 5 it says may the Lord fulfill your petitions. Just one big desire that whoever was being prayed for would find great blessing in their lives.

We even see in verse 5 that there was a response to the answer of God to the person they were praying for as the people said they would rejoice in the salvation of God and in the name of our God we will set up banners...IN other words we are going to rejoice in the God of

heaven, we are going to thank Him for His great work and acknowledge God for His greatness and work to make it so everyone can see how great God is.

I would mention before we move on here that all of us I believe can relate to verse 1 in that we all have days of trouble and difficulty as we go through life. No one is exempt from trials and tribulations.

Sometimes we bring difficulty on ourselves and other times the Lord allows things to happen to purify us and help us to become more like Him.

It is during times of trial that the Lord can work deeply in our hearts and lives and He can make us more like Him.

Notice also and then we'll move on what we find in verse 2 which says that help comes from where? It says from the sanctuary. I like that because God is the one that dwells in the sanctuary and the idea here is that help is coming not from man, not from resources or abilities but instead our help comes from where? It comes from the Lord.

Look with me at verses 6-9 which say this ⁶**Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed;**

He will answer him from His holy heaven

With the saving strength of His right hand.

⁷**Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;**

But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

⁸**They have bowed down and fallen;**

But we have risen and stand upright.

⁹**Save, Lord!**

May the King answer us when we call.

When we have reference in verse 6 to the Lord saving His anointed **this is where many believe that the prayers of the first 5 verses were on behalf of the king** and that does make sense **but notice that there is a confidence that God will answer from heaven and save with His right hand.**

And then a famous verse in verse 7 which says that some trust in chariots and others in horses, but we shall trust in the name of the Lord our God...**You know in biblical times the most powerful piece of weaponry that an army had was the horse and the chariot. If you had those it gave your army a great advantage.**

There are many in this world that trust in human strength, wisdom and abilities...**true strength is found when someone learns to trust not in themselves and their abilities** but in the abilities of God on their behalf. **That's a hard lesson to learn and I think we learn it throughout our lives but God is the One that can move mountains on our behalf** and take care of the works of the enemy quite swiftly as he comes against us.

I like what we learn over in 2 Kings 6:14-18 during the life of Elisha **when the Word says** **¹⁴Therefore he (being the king of Syria) sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.** **¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"**

¹⁶So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." **¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then**

the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ So when *the Syrians* came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

Don't ever forget the power and authority of God. He will watch over us and He is our strength.

Ok let's look at chapter 21 and you know who it was written by and who it was written to as this seems to be the case in many of these early Psalms and really this Psalm commentators say can be really a response to the Lord answering the prayers that are found in chapter 20 though we can't directly say that these two Psalms are tied together it does seem to fit.

Look at verses 1-2 which say ²¹ The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! ² You have given him his heart's desire, And have not withheld the request of his lips. *Selah*

Notice the king says you have responded to the desires that I have in my heart and the requests of my lips. In other words God you have answered my prayers and worked on my behalf...You have helped me in my trouble.

It is as if David is praising the Lord for responding to him...Do you do that in your life? Are you thankful for what the Lord has done? Do you take time to remember His responses to your prayers and how often He has blessed you?

We ought not be ungrateful children my pastor has said on many occasions.

Look at verses 3-7 which say **³For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. ⁴He asked life from You, and You gave it to him— Length of days forever and ever. ⁵His glory is great in Your salvation; Honor and majesty You have placed upon him. ⁶For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence. ⁷For the king trusts in the Lord, And through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.**

Notice that David is just recounting the blessings of God over his life. God had blessed him with goodness, had set a crown of gold on his head, life was granted to David as he requested it of God and length of days were found forever and ever meaning David knew that his life when it ended here would continue into eternity in the presence of God.

David then speaks of the greatness of God's glory that is found in His salvation and that honor and majesty had been placed upon David along with an exceedingly great gladness that was found in His presence.

And then notice that after the trials and difficulties there was a trust that was produced in the Lord and he knew that through the mercy of the Most High he would not be moved. I think that's one result of trials that we find in our lives. We find as we submit to His will and His work that we can trust the Lord and His greatness and His work within us.

As the Lord helps us and we can look back and see His great mercy we learn that the Lord is fully trustworthy, that we can commit our lives and hearts to Him.

David then says this in verses 8-12 say ⁸Your hand will find all Your enemies;

Your right hand will find those who hate You.

⁹You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger;

The Lord shall swallow them up in His wrath,

And the fire shall devour them.

¹⁰Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth,

And their descendants from among the sons of men.

¹¹For they intended evil against You;

They devised a plot *which* they are not able to perform.

¹²Therefore You will make them turn their back;

You will make ready *Your arrows* on Your string toward their faces.

Not only would God help David but notice that he says of God in verse 8 that the hand of God would find all of Your enemies and that Y in your is capitalized meaning the enemies of God Himself.

God has a way of dealing with those that are His enemies both in this world and certainly in the world to come. The Word says this over in 2 Peter 2:9 which says ⁹**then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,**

The wicked of this world plot against the people of God and even God Himself but the Lord as we learned in Psalm 2 laughs from heaven at the plans of the wicked. God has no problem defeating the works of those who are against Him...Even the greatest foe of God who is Satan

will be destroyed in a moment as the Word of God comes forth from the mouth of Jesus in the battle that is called Armageddon in Revelation 19.

Don't ever forget that the Lord is the Almighty and powerful One who sits in the heavens and there is not one thing that takes place that He does not know about and has not planned for. **We can rest in Him that He will take care of business in this world as He sees fit and He is working all things for the good of those that love Him and desire to serve Him.**

Finally look at verse 13 which says ¹³Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power. As this Psalm concludes what is the result of God's great work on behalf of David? **He praises the Lord and lifts His name on high and chooses to sing and praise the power of God.**

Today as we close we are going to have a time of reflection as we partake of communion and we just remember what the Lord has done for us.

Psalms 19-21 “God Wants To Be Known”

Introduction

Ephesians 5:18-20

Chapter 19

Verses 1-5

Romans 1:18-20

Verse 11

Hebrews 4:12

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Chapter 20

Verses 6-9

2 Kings 6:14-18

Chapter 21

Verses 8-12

2 Peter 2:9