

Harris Creek Baptist Church  
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Series: Soundtracks  
June 25, 2023

Are You Listening?

Passage: Psalm 19

**<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. <sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. <sup>4</sup> Yet their voice<sup>[b]</sup> goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. <sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. <sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth. <sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. <sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. <sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. <sup>14</sup> May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

This might be one of the lowest moments of my preaching career, but here we go. I have seen The Notebook and I actually kind of like it. I know! I'm sorry! And that's not who I'm supposed to be, but it's just true. How many of you have seen The Notebook before? Yeah, one of the best romantic movies of all time. Just want to make sure you know—this is not a Harris Creek stamp of approval. This is not telling you to go watch it. There are some scenes in there that you probably shouldn't watch. But I do want to tell you about one scene in particular; if you haven't seen the movie before, I'm going to tell you all you need to know. There's this girl; her name is Allie. She was raised in a wealthy family, came with resources, grew up with resources. And she fell in love with a guy named Noah. Noah did not grow up with resources. So, they start dating and they fall in love. But Allie is pressured to break up with Noah because this isn't supposed to happen. She's not supposed to date a guy like him. So eventually, they do break up. This love is stopped from happening, and then Allie goes in and meets this other guy, a wealthier guy who's fine. Like, he's just fine. He's not all that good; he's not all that bad; he's just fine. And they start dating. And it's whatever. But it's not like the love she had with Noah. And I think she's engaged to this guy. But then one day, she happens to run into Noah again. And the sparks fly immediately. They're having a blast. It's so clear that they're in love once again. And there's this really famous scene where they're on a canoe in the middle of a lake, and they're smiling, the sun is shining. All of a sudden, there's this downpour, and they're just laughing and absolutely in love. And then Noah paddles all the way to the shore, docks the canoe, and then the scene changes from happy to, all of a sudden, Allie's really upset. She gets off the canoe, runs onto the

land, looks back at Noah and says, “Why didn't you write me? Why? It wasn't over for me, I waited for you. Why didn't you write me?” And then Noah goes, “I wrote you 365 letters. I wrote you every day for a year.” And she said, “You did?” And then they sin. *[laughs]* Yeah, so don't watch that part. So, skip that part.

And then go to the next scene. You're like, “What are we doing this for?” In the next scene, Allie's with her mom in her mom's car, and they're talking about, “Okay, who should I marry? Should I marry this bland, rich guy? Or this Noah guy who I really love?” And they're talking about it, discussing it, and then they get out of the car. And then Allie's mom goes, “Wait one more thing.” She gets out of the car, goes to the trunk, opens up the trunk and pulls out the 365 letters. And it's like, “Oh, how dare you! You are the one who kept them from being in love, Noah was writing to her every single day. And you'd go to the mailbox and keep that letter from getting to Allie. You're telling me that they could have been together this whole time? And you're the one who kept that communication from happening? So Allie just settled for this second-class, boring, stale love?”

And here's what we're talking about today. *[laughs]* I'm going to connect it, I promise. That looks a whole lot like your life with Jesus. Because I think there are times in my walk and in your walk, where we go to God and we say, “God, why aren't you writing me? Why haven't you spoken to me?” And meanwhile, He's going, “I wrote you every single day of your life. I have spoken to you every single day of your life. The problem is that you don't hear me.” There is someone who's trying to keep that communication from getting to us. There is someone who's trying to keep us from hearing the voice of God in our life, so we don't hear His love for us. So instead, we settle for a second-class, stale, boring love that this world has to offer. Meanwhile, there's a deeper love, a greater love, a real love available to us in Christ Jesus. And the good news is that God has loved you so much and He's told you about it. The problem is we don't always hear it.

So today we're going to talk about how to hear from God. We're going to be in Psalm 19. How can we hear God's voice in our life? Today we're continuing on in a sermon series called “Soundtracks” as we're going through the book of Psalms. Last week we looked at Psalm 1, the opening of this book of the Bible. We looked at what it looks like to have a steady soul; how can we be a tree planted by streams of living water? We've called this sermon series “Soundtracks” because the book of Psalms is a book of songs. In fact, that word “psalm” means “songs of praise.” And these writings would be sung by the people of God, and as we mentioned last week a lot of them were written by David. Psalm 1 was written by David; Psalm 19 was written by David. You might know David as the king of Israel, But he was also like the Chris Tomlin of Israel or the Phil Wickham of Israel. He wrote songs for the people of God to sing. And these songs would sometimes be happy songs, praise songs; sometimes they'd be complaining songs, psalms of lament. Some songs were happy, some were sad; these psalms sound a whole lot like how our life feels. And today, the psalm that we're going to read is a psalm of praise. And in it, David is going to tell us how we can hear from God and then he's going to tell us how we should respond to that revelation. And the flow of this passage is important. We're going to start reading in verse one in just a second. But you got to understand where we're going today. Here's where we're going: David is going to start by looking upward to the skies, then he's going to look downward to the Scripture, and then he's going to look inward to his soul. You got that? He's

looking upward to the sky, downward to the Scripture, inward to his soul. That's where we're going. Verse one; this is what it says:

**The heavens declare the glory of God; then listen to this, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.**

So what David is saying here is he's saying when we go, "God, why aren't you speaking to me?" God's going, "Why aren't you listening to me?" In verse two, it says "day after day, night after night," the heavens are speaking to us, that they're declaring the glory of God, which is the first thing we can learn from this passage. Point number one:

1. *God's world declares God's glory.*

You know, David is artistic. He writes this in such a creative and poetic way. In fact, look at how he describes the sun. In verse four--it's beautiful--he says, "**In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.**"

David clearly is marveling at the sun. Do you know why I don't write love letters to the sun? Because I live in Texas. [*laughs*] And when I think of the sun, I'm not like wanting to write a thank you note, I'm frustrated with it! Because today, it's going to be 101. Wednesday, it's going to be 107 degrees here in Waco. When I think of the sun, I'm not like, "Amazing, I love it." I'm like, "Go away for a little bit." Well, let me tell you why it's going to be 101 degrees today. Right now, at this moment, the sun is a huge ball of gas. And at its center, there's this process taking place called nuclear fusion. And nuclear fusion is when one proton rams into another proton. And when it does that, it expels energy, which turns into warmth. And that's happening so much, because the sun is so big. In fact, it's so big that 1.3 million Earths could fit inside the sun. In fact, if I put a picture of the sun next to the earth on screen, it just wouldn't even compute; it's that much bigger. Because if you were to get in your car today, and drive around the circumference of the Earth, going from one end to the other, it would take you four weeks to get from one end of the Earth to the other. Now, if you were to get in your car and drive from one end of the sun to the other end of the sun, first, I would recommend get a really good pair of sunglasses. Secondly, get a really comfy seat, because it would take you a decade to get from one end of the sun to the other end of the sun. That's how big it is.

I mean, it's so big. There's all this nuclear fusion taking place, that it's so hot, there's so much energy being released, so much heat being released that, at its surface, the sun is 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The good news is Earth is located 94.472 million miles away from the sun. And since we are located 94.472 million miles away from the sun, it's only 101 today. Praise God for 101! Seriously, because astronomers have called our atmosphere "the Goldilocks atmosphere." If we

were a little bit closer, we'd be too hot. If we were a little bit farther away, it'd be too cold. So, when you leave today, you can go, "Thank you Lord it's not 301." Or "Thank you Lord it's not negative 101." 101 feels amazing today. And it's because we're put in the right place. And Psalm 19 says that all of this is pointing to a designer, all of this is declaring the good news of God. And Psalm 19 isn't just saying that the sun declares the glory of God, but it says, "The whole heavens declare the glory of God," day after day, night after night; it doesn't stop preaching a sermon to us.

But maybe it's just chance. Maybe it's just chance that we have the perfect size moon. There's a lot of different types of moons, a lot of different numbers of moons around different planets, we have just the perfect size moon, that its gravitational force keeps us slanted at the perfect tilt that, if we didn't have the moon, we wouldn't actually have four seasons. But maybe it's just chance.

Maybe it's just chance that Jupiter is placed in the exact right spot because, where it is right now, it's currently taking on comets and asteroids on our behalf. In fact, scientists believe that if Jupiter was not placed where it is right now, we would have 10,000 times as many collisions with asteroids and comets than we do currently. But maybe it's just chance.

Maybe it's just chance that our ozone layer is perfectly suited for us because the ozone layer takes on harmful UV rays from the sun. Yesterday, some of you girls were really excited that we had a UV 12; I don't really know what that means. It just means you can get really tan. The good news is that you're only getting 1% of the UV rays from the sun, because our ozone layer is protecting all those harmful rays. And if you had more than 1%, you would die. Maybe it's just chance. Maybe it's just chance that we have the perfect amount of gravity on Earth, if we had any less, we'd start flying. If we had any more, we'd be crushed to the ground. Maybe it's just chance that our atmosphere is the perfect combination of nitrogen and oxygen for life to survive. If there was any more oxygen or any less nitrogen, we wouldn't be able to live here. Maybe it's just chance that we breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. And then it's really interesting, trees and plants breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. Maybe it's just chance. Maybe it's just chance that our earth is created in the perfect way for life to live. And not just a little bit of life, but a lot of life--because scientists believe that there are 8.7 million species on Earth. But get this: of those 8.7 million species it is believed that 86% of all land species and 91% of all sea species have not yet been discovered or described.

Maybe it's just chance. Maybe the angler fish is just chance. Maybe it's just chance that since it lives on the bottom of the sea, it's really helpful that it has this flashlight in front of it. But maybe it's just chance. Maybe the stick insect is just chance. I mean--that's really helpful to camouflage in there. I mean, how cool is that? It just so happened to look exactly like a leaf. I know it looks like someone designed it, but it didn't because maybe that's just chance. Or maybe the Venezuelan poodle moth is just chance. *[laughs]* I know you think when I'm when I'm writing a sermon, I'm in the Bible all week. I was on these amazing websites all week; it was hard to write this message.

Maybe the lilac breasted roller is just chance. Look at that thing! Maybe that's just chance. Maybe the pangolin is just chance--not penguin, the pangolin. I know it looks like it's from

Pokémon or something. This is a real animal. But maybe the echidna is just chance. It's like spiky and yet I want to give it a hug all the same time.

Maybe it's just chance, and, maybe, you were just chance. Or maybe you are fearfully and wonderfully created. Maybe the design of the universe is speaking to the designer, and maybe just maybe the heavens and the earth are declaring the glory of God. In every single day, they're pouring forth speech, day after day, night after night. They're telling us who our God is. And I hope you understand this because I believe this. In recent years, the rise in agnosticism is not because nature is telling us there is no God. The rise and agnosticism in recent years is because we're not listening to nature telling us there is a God. Because Romans 1:20 says this: **“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”**

And God actually uses nature all the all across scripture to help people develop faith in Him. It's nature is described a lot in the Psalms, but not just in the Psalms. I'm right now reading through Genesis, and this week I happened, it didn't happen, God intended it to be this way. But I was reading Genesis 15. Genesis 15, God appears to Abraham (Abram at the time) and he says, “Abram, you are going to have a son.” And Abram is in a tent at the time, and he's having a hard time believing God. So, what God does is He said, “Abram, get out of that tent, and then look up at the sky. Look up at all the stars. And if I did that, I think I can give you a son.”

Flip over a few other pages to the book of Job. If you've never read the book of Job before, Job was a great man. He was a righteous man who had really difficult things happened to him. And eventually he started being really frustrated with God, which is understandable. But then at the end of Job--it's a fascinating ending--I love what God says to Job. He said, “Gird your loins, like a man. I'm about to respond to what you've said.” He doesn't even really give him a true answer. All He says is He's just saying, “Hey, look at nature. Look at what I've created. And then let's talk.” My favorite scripture from that portion is Job 38:35. Listen to this, this is what God says, **“Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, ‘Here we are’?”** He's going Job, “Whenever you see lightning. Is it there because you told it to go there? Or because I did?”

Flip a couple pages later, Matthew 6--I bet you've heard this verse before. This is from Jesus; He says this, **“Look at the birds of the air. They do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”**

Now let's keep that verse up there. I see this verse differently than I did a week ago. Because I've heard that verse before, a thousand times. And I like that verse. I like the idea of that verse. It's a poetic verse. But after looking at it this week, this verse is not like a parable. It's a command. He's saying, “Look at the birds of the air,” just like he's saying, “pray,” just like he's saying, “love your spouse.” He's saying, “I want you to do this.” This isn't some idea; “I want you to actually go and do this.”

Because here's the thing: you and I, we're living in the midst of real problems. We've got real difficulties in our life, we've got bills to pay, we've got stress in our family, we've got stress in

our job, and we are living in the midst of real problems. But we're also living in the midst of a real miracle. Because when you step away from it all and you go and you look at the birds of the air, and you see that your heavenly Father feeds them, you realize that you're not inviting God into your story, but He's inviting you into His. So if you feel distant from God, if you're struggling in your faith, which we all will, here's what you can do that to grow in your faith this week. And before this week, I probably would have felt weird about this, but I really think this is a biblical application to this text. Psalm 19 and Matthew 6, if you want to grow in your faith, this week, go on a walk. But there's three rules for that walk. One, you can't walk to exercise. Two, you can't walk with your phone. Don't walk like this. *[pretends to hold phone, looking down]* And then thirdly, don't walk with somebody else. Do this, this might be cheesy, but it's going to help you in your faith, so, I'm willing to say it: go on a wonder walk. Just get out of your house and say "My purpose in going on this walk is to be in wonder at all God created, I'm going to go slow, I'm going to look at the skies. I'm going to look at the trees, I'm going to look at the ants on the ground, I'm going to look at the birds in the tree." And when you do that, here's what happens: you start to hear God's voice. And you start to hear Him say "I'm a big God. I'm a creative God. I'm a generous God. I'm a careful God." And it's in those moments when we typically say, "God, why aren't you speaking to me?" He's saying, "Why aren't you listening to me?" Because it's there every day of your life. You're just too distracted to hear it. So point number one, the first thing that we can learn from this passage: God's world declares the glory of God.

So, David has looked upward to the skies to see the glory of God and now he's going to look downward to the Scripture to see the glory of God. Because while the world tells part of the story of God, the world doesn't tell all the story of God because the universe speaks to the grandeur of God. Scripture speaks to the grace of God. And David writes this in verse seven: **The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.**

So, many of us, I know, struggle with reading Scripture. But look here how it's described by David. David looks at the Word of God, and he says, "It refreshes my soul. It gives joy to my heart, it gives light to my eyes, it's more precious than gold." And if you just looked at those descriptions, you'd think that those descriptions were describing like an all-expenses-paid trip to Hawaii, not our quiet time. But David is saying, "This is what it can be like when you get with the Word of God, it can do those things for you." Because point number two, the second thing we can learn, is:

## 2. *God's Word declares God's glory.*

I know it's easy for some of us to be in awe of God's creation; it's a little bit harder for us to be in awe of God's Scripture. So let me help you out. Check out this picture. *[shows picture on screen]* This picture is unbelievable; it was first shown to me by Pastor John Durham at Highland--he's a great man, great preacher, great pastor. And he helped grow my faith with this. This is really one

of the most amazing images you're ever going to see. The bottom portion, those white lines, on the left, it's Genesis chapter one. On the right, it's Revelation chapter 22. And the length of those lines is based on how many times that chapter is cross referenced in Scripture. And on top, the color of those lines, they're all different cross references in Scripture. There's about 64,000 cross references in Scripture. A cross reference is when one verse is referring to another, either directly or somewhat indirectly. And the colors up top are based on the length of cross reference. So, the blue and purple ones are maybe from one book to the next, or one chapter, the next. And then the green ones up top are like from Genesis to Revelation. And here's what's amazing about this; this is one really long book. And it's like it's talking to itself. It's saying the same thing over and over again. It's like the writers at the beginning knew what was going to happen at the end. And it's like the writer at the end knew what was going to happen at the beginning and end. And they knew everything about the middle as well. And it's fascinating, because this would be absolutely genius, if one person wrote this at one time. But the Bible is written by 40 different authors, over 1,500 years, on three different continents. I don't know how this is even possible, because, you see, the Bible is so rich, and diverse, and complex, and yet it tells one single story. That God is lovingly redeeming all who believe in Him. And it's no wonder that this is the best-selling book of all time. And you know, as I said that it's written by 40 different authors. It's not. It's written by One who used 40 different authors.

But maybe it's just chance. Maybe it's just chance that Jesus fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies, written hundreds of years before He was born. And maybe that's just chance too. Or maybe **all Scripture is God breathed, and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** You see, in Genesis, when God spoke and the universe came into existence, God also breathed and guided the writings of Scripture. You see, nature and scripture are both as marvelous and mighty. And I love what Charles Spurgeon--he was a pastor--had to say about Psalm 19. He's got this quote, he says, "He is wisest who reads both the world-book and the Word-book as two volumes of the same work and feels concerning them, 'My Father wrote them both.'"

I know for some of us marveling at the world is enjoyable and fun and marveling at the Word feels like homework. It's okay to admit that. But I think here's probably why it's a little bit harder for us to marvel at the Word than it is the world. When I was at Baylor, my least favorite classes—and this is going to offend people, I'm sorry, but sorry--my least favorite classes were English classes. So, if you're an English professor, I'm sorry, I bet you do a great job. I didn't love English classes. My least favorite class at Baylor, at least one of them, was British Literature, because the only book I remember reading was *Frankenstein*. And the only reason I remember reading it, because I was like, "I don't know why I'm reading this." Like, it has no purpose in my life. This book, I don't know why I'm reading this right now. It's about a guy who creates a monster who comes to life. Great, that's going to help me as a pastor one day. And I just really didn't care, because it was written by someone, I knew nothing about, on a topic I cared nothing about, and during a time period that couldn't really speak to 2023. It was written in 1818. That was a long time ago. Written by someone I didn't know anything about, on a topic I didn't care anything about, and during a time period that can't speak to my time period. And so, it was a grind. I think that's how we view Scripture. We go, "Man, this was written by people I know

nothing about, on a topic I really don't care anything about, and during a time period that can't possibly speak to my life today.”

But you see there's other literature in college that I loved reading. Because there's other literature that, whenever I got my hands on it, I could not wait to consume it. Because for two summers, while my wife and I, we were dating, she worked at Kanakuk. Kanakuk is a great organization, but they stole her phone for six out of the seven days of the week, which is hard for me. So, we ended up having to write letters back and forth all summer long to hear how she was doing. And I get an email every single morning from the USPS telling me what letters I'm getting in the mail. And whenever I'd see a picture with her handwriting on it, do you know what I would do? As soon as I would get home, I'd rip open the mailbox. And I'd look at that letter. And I wouldn't go, you know, “I'm going to get to this. If I've got time tonight.” I wouldn't go you know, “If there's nothing on TV, I might just open it and read it.” I didn't go you know, “If I don't happen to sleep in maybe I'll get up and read it the next day.” No, I opened it up as fast as I possibly could and read all of it immediately. Because I love these letters. I still have it, you know why I love these letters? I did not love these letters because of the pictures that Adalee drew on the bottom of them. I didn't love these letters because of her grammar. I love these letters because I love the one who wrote the letter. I wanted to read this because I love my girlfriend. I love my now-wife. I wanted to hear how she was doing. I wanted to hear how she was discipling kids. I wanted to hear how much she loved me. And I love these letters because I love the one who had written them. So, we don't love Scripture because it's ancient. We don't love Scripture even because it's interesting. We don't even love Scripture because it's wise. We love Scripture because we love the one who wrote the Scriptures. You see, the point of the Bible is not the Bible; the point of the Bible is not to get to know the Bible. The point of the Bible is to get to know God.

And I know there's this growing movement in Christianity that's confusing to me. Well, it's not because the Bible is hard to read sometimes. And it sometimes is confusing. I don't want to minimize that. But there's this growing movement where it's like, “I'm not a Bible guy. I'm not a Bible girl. I love to hear from God and nature and through other people.” And you can! But when you say “I'm not a Bible person,” it's like, are you a God person? Do you want to hear what He said? Because that's what we believe Scripture to be. See the point of the Bible--it's not the Bible. The point of the Bible is God. In fact, this is what David says, going back to this passage, verse seven. David doesn't say, “the law of the Bible is perfect, the statutes of the Bible are trustworthy.” He says in verse seven” **“the law of the Lord is perfect.”** Know who this is coming from, **The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.**

You see, the Bible is God's story that He's telling us. And it's the story that all other stories are based on. You see, the love in the Bible is deeper and more real than the love of *The Notebook*. And the evil within us, it was more monstrous than the monster in *Frankenstein*. But here's the good news of the Bible: in our unlovability, God still loved us. And while we chose, on our own, to be orphans, He chose on His own to make us sons and daughters of the King of kings. Simply because He loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son to live a perfect life, to die on a



cross the death that we deserved, then He rose three days later, so that we could have life forever. So, I hope you hear this, I hope you get this. The Bible is written by somebody you can know. It's written about a topic that you should care about because it's written about you. And it's written in a time period that can still speak today, because the word of God is living and active. You see the Bible is not just some collection of old stories. It's your story. And it's my story, because it's God's stories that He's written to us, so that we might get to know Him. It declares His glory on every page. [applause] And this is point number two, the second thing we can learn: the Word of God declares the glory of God.

So far, David has looked upward at the sky, and he said “Wow!” And then he’s looked downward at the Scripture and he said, “Amazing!” Now, he’s about to look inward at his soul and he goes, “Yuck.” This is what he says next, verse 12, talking about himself: **But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

The flow of this chapter is so essential to really understanding what this chapter is telling us. David is saying, “Your world declares your glory. Your Word declares your glory. I don’t really think I do, but I want to. I want to Lord, I want to play the part I’m supposed to play. All Creation speaks your glory. Your Word speaks your glory. And I just don’t want to mess up that chain. I want to be a part of it. I want to declare Your glory.” Which is point number three, the third thing we can learn:

### 3. *God’s people declare God’s glory.*

So how do we declare God’s glory? How do we actually do that? Well, we have to look like nature and we have to look like Scripture. And if nature’s purpose is to showcase its creator, if Scripture’s purpose is to showcase its creator, then our purpose is to showcase our Creator. We must live in such a way that when people see us, they see God. This is what Jesus actually said in Matthew 5: **“In the same way, let your light shine before others.”** Why? **“That they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.”** You see, we must live a godly life so that people can see God in us. But David goes, “I don’t think I am. I have hidden sins. I have willful sins. I have sins I don’t even know about. I’m so broken, I don’t even see all my brokenness. I just feel it and I know it’s there, but God I want to please you. I want the words of my mouth to please you.” And here’s the only way for the words of your mouth to please God. The only way we can speak words that please God is if we first hear the words that God has spoken.

You see, the flow of this passage is so important. David is saying, “God, I’ve heard what you’ve said in the skies. I’ve heard what you’ve said in the Scripture. Now, Lord let me actually listen to it. May I listen to what you’ve said so that I can say words that please your heart.” Because you see, this is the way the Christian life works. In the Christian life, you don’t want to speak before you’ve listened. You want to hear what God has said before you begin to open up your mouth. And this is what David is telling us. The lesson of this chapter is that David is in inhaling godly

things so that he can exhale godly things. He's inhaling what God has done in the world, inhaling what God has done in the Word, so that he can exhale words that please God.

But this is some of our problem. This is really the idea that I want to close with today. A couple of weeks ago--you probably saw this--but this was a picture of New York City. *[shows photo of smoky downtown]* If you didn't see this, this was because there were a bunch of fires in Canada. And the fires in Canada were taken by the winds--the smoke was taken by the wind to New York City, and it really just sat over New York City. So, the New Yorkers were told, "You have to stay inside; don't go outside. If you do outside, you'll actually be inhaling death, like this will kill you potentially. It will start the process of killing you, this is not good for you." So, baseball games were cancelled. Everything else outside was cancelled. And they were mandated to stay inside for their own good. But oftentimes in our walk with God, this is what the world looks like *[shows photo again]* and we just go, "I don't care. I'm going to breathe it in anyway. I am going to take a deep breath of the world. I'm going to take a deep breath of sin. I'm going to take a deep breath of death." And then we wonder why we're like coughing up a lung when we are trying to exhale godly lives. Well, we can't exhale a godly life if we've inhaled sin. If we've inhaled the world. And this is the flow of this chapter in Psalm 19; David is saying "You have to inhale good things, pure things, godly things. And it's only after we've inhaled godly things can we exhale godly things."

This is really what David is trying to say to us. He's saying, "Hey, every single day, look at the world. Not just to look at the world, but to see God's fingerprints in the world. And then look at Scripture, and don't just read Scripture to read Scripture, read Scripture to see God's fingerprints in Scripture. And it's only after you take in godly things, can you actually begin to live a godly life." Inhale godliness so you can exhale godliness. And this is really what this chapter is telling us; this is how we're going to close this morning. Point number one: God's world declares God's glory. Point number two: God's word declares God's glory. Point number three: God's people declare God's glory. Let me pray that we would.

Father, thank you so much that you have spoken to us. Every single day, your skies are declaring your glory. Day after day, night after night, creation is pouring forth speech. God, thank you that you didn't just do that, but you inspired 66 books to be written over 1,500 years by 40 different authors, all to tell us who you are. And then you didn't just stop there, you didn't just create nature, you didn't just write a book, but you sent your Son to live and breathe and take on flesh and to tell us who we are and to tell us who you are. God, thank you for what you've spoken in Scripture, that the message of the Gospel is we were lost, we were broken, we were sick, we were powerless, but then Jesus came, and now we are found. We are filled with power, we're redeemed, and we're righteous simply because of what you've done. So God may that be the story that we're listening to every single day of our life. And may we not listen to the lies of the enemy. May we not let him get in between you and us. Instead, may we toss aside his lies and just be eager to hear your truth. Would you allow us, through the power of the Holy Spirit to just remove any distraction, remove anything in our life that would keep us from you? And God would you speak to us in such a way that would remove anxiety? That would remove sin? That would remove anger? That would remove comparison? And would we listen to the words that you have spoken so that we can speak words that please your heart? So, God would you wake us up every single morning with an eagerness to hear from you, with the belief that you are

speaking to us? And God, may the words that you speak to us dwell in our hearts and change who we are from the inside out. God, at this time, we do want to speak to you. We want to say words that would bless your heart because we believe that Jesus is alive and with us and for us, and it's in His powerful name that we pray. Amen.