

God's Precious Revelation Psalm 19

Intro

British born Bertrand Russell was something of a 20th century renaissance man. He was a historian, a philosopher, a mathematician, a political activist and an author who eventually won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1950. An impressive man by almost any measure.

One of his most enduring contributions is an essay that was originally presented as a lecture in 1927 called "Why I Am Not a Christian" - an essay that the New York Public Library listed as one of the most influential books of the 20th century (Wikipedia)

In his essay he included numerous reasons for his rejecting of Christianity. Among them was his assertion, that Jesus Christ was morally defective, that religion in general is based primarily on fear and that the Christian religion is in effect the cause of extreme wickedness in the world, that there is no good reason to believe there is a God at all.

A NY Times article from several years ago entitled "Mystery and Evidence" recounts a story about Mr. Russell "giving a public lecture somewhere or other defending his atheism. A furious woman stood up at the end of the lecture and asked: "And Lord Russell, what will you say when you stand in front of the throne of God on judgment day?" Russell replied: "I will say: I'm terribly sorry, but you didn't give us enough evidence."

What Bertrand Russell and other Atheist would argue is that God has not provided enough evidence of his existence to believe he's real. He has not revealed himself.

But, according to the Scriptures, we understand that God has in fact revealed himself. Not to little evidence - there is an overabundance of evidence of his existence not only in the Bible but in all of creation because God has revealed himself.

Our Psalm this morning directs us to the abundance of evidence that is God exists he has revealed himself to us and is revealing himself - is worthy of our honor, worship, and submission. He has made himself known - he is not hiding - the blind spot is directly in front of the atheist.

I take this to be the greatest poem in the psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world. (C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*) Read this great, divinely inspired poem concerning the reality of the revelation of God

READ TEXT

The Psalmist intends us to understand that: **The careful contemplation of the revelation of the LORD in creation and scripture will inspire greater adoration and renewed spiritual commitment in the believer. (Allen Ross, *Psalms*, p. 487)**

Contemplate - greater adoration - renewed spiritual commitment - by God's grace we will experience these things by the conclusion of this sermon

3 Points concerning God's precious revelation - 1. God's Revelation in Nature 2. God's Revelation in Scripture 3. The Right Response to Revelation

I. God's Revelation in Nature

- A. V. 1 many of us - familiar with wonderful words pointing us toward God "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork"

God's glory is the radiance of his holiness, the radiance of his manifold, infinitely worthy and valuable perfections. (John Piper)

1. The heavens are declaring, the sky is proclaiming...the heavens and sky are declaring and proclaiming that God the Creator is glorious. How? Because in the glory of the heavens and the sky we understand something of the glory of the one who created those heavens.
2. There is a sermon going on v. 2 "day to day" - pours out speech - overabundance, "night to night reveals knowledge - day and night there is a pouring out of speech about the glory of God - there is a revelation of the knowledge of who God is whether day or night - a sermon is being preached in the heavens - a sermon about the reality of the glory of God
3. V. 3 - it is a silent sermon - no speech or words, voice not heard - This declaration of the glory of God is heard with the eye not the ear - when we behold the heavens with the eye - The glory of God is communicated to the mind.
4. v. 4 all the earth hears this declaration - this silent voice - these silent words - go to the end of the world. PA, Nepal, Liberia, all here this declaration - LOOK AT THE HEAVENS AND BEHOLD THE GLORY OF GOD - behold the radiance of his manifold, infinitely worthy and valuable perfections
- B. V. 4-6 Consider the sun! Consider the glory of the sun! Like a supremely happy husband rising from sleep the morning after his honeymoon with a discernible spring in his step. Like an athlete running with joy and energy across the sky. Each day as the sun rises and sets - each day as it completes its circuit across the sky - each day as we feel the heat of the sun and see the brilliance of the sun - we are experiencing the tactile, sensory, reality that God exists and is glorious as the one who created that awesome star that sustains life on earth

Illustration: Sun facts - nearly perfect sphere that is 432,149 miles in radius - big enough to fit one million earths inside. A blazing sphere of plasma with internal temperatures reaching up to 28 million degrees F. Awesome and created by God to reveal how awesome and glorious that God is for he is the creator of the sun

- C. v. 1-6 All of creation and specifically the heavens above are preaching a sermon - revealing something of the glory of God - BEHOLD THE REVELATION OF THE GLORY OF THE GOD WHO CREATED AND STANDS ABOVE THE HEAVENS
1. With aid of high-powered telescopes there is much glory to behold - We behold the mystery and the majesty of the cosmos - consider the reality of black holes the size of some galaxies that consume stars and planets

Illustration: Black holes - time stops - Belching - neutrinos on beams - subatomic particles that pass through my hand = ELLEN

- D. Galaxies upon Galaxies - Consider the Pleiades, Ursa Major the Great Bear, Orion the hunter, Pegasus and Leo the Lion - constellations that make there track across the night-time sky - consider the glory of the Milky Way, the beauty of the moon
- E. Want revelation of the glory of God - LOOK UP! LOOK UP! There is revelation, there is a declaration, there is speech being poured out the eye - GOD EXISTS, AND HE IS GLORIOUS, STRONG, WISE, MIGHTY
- F. Application
 1. Reason for all of us to become Jr. Astronomers - creation is a textbook - the Heavens are a primer on the glory of God
 2. v. 1-6 of this Psalm should inform the way we think about creation and specifically the sky above us as we make our way through life. Look up!
 - (1) Most of us are inclined to look down to our phones, or look around to the various activities neglecting to look up with joy - God is revealing himself to us - what a privilege to behold the glory of God revealed in creation!
 - (a) As you head to the parking lot after this sermon under overcast, gray skies - anticipate that around 7 PM the sun is supposed to make an appearance. Consider the glory of God in the sky.

- (b) As you head to work or school on your daily commute - behold the glory of God
 - (c) Labor Day BBQ - lingering heat of a soon-ending summer - behold!
 - (d) As you travel with your children - "look my child, behold the glory of God!"
3. God has revealed himself in his creation - "general revelation". All men and women receive this revelation

[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. (Romans 1:19-20)

- G. In our sin we are all complicit in cosmic, tyrannical suppression - God has done the job of revealing himself - his glory - his power and divine attributes in his creation - in our sin we suppress that truth and are condemned and therefore this "general" revelation of God is insufficient to make us right with God. But God, with infinite grace and mercy, has revealed himself another way - specifically, kindly, graciously to us through his Word

II. God's Revelation in Scripture

- A. v. 7-9 The Psalmist turns from considering God's revelation of his glory in the splendor of creation to the special revelation of the Word of God - the Scriptures
- 1. A fulsome description of the various aspects of Scripture - DAVID PENTATEUCH - FOR US WE EXTEND TO ALL THE BIBLE - the Law - his righteous requirements, the testimony of his activity and grace, the precepts - his wisdom for us, the commandments, the fear of the Lord - trembling with reverence before his Word - all part of his specific, special revelation to us.
 - 2. 6 x "of the LORD" - Yahweh - covenant name of God "I AM" - GET THIS!
 - 3. Perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true, righteous - all that we desperately need the revelation of God to be and totally unlike the words of men
 - a) Our words are often imperfect, uncertain, imprecise, false, corrupt, deceitful

Illustration: At this point we are all aware of the reality of "fake news." Not new - there have been attempts all through history to manipulate

- B. Our words don't measure up to the perfection of these Words - this revelation is all we would expect and hope it to be from the God of the universe
- 1. Perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true - meets us where we are in our need.
 - a) v. 7 revives the soul. Imparts life to the soul. Makes the simple wise
 - b) v. 8 Makes the heart rejoice. Enlightens the eyes - guides our way in darkness
 - (1) Need reviving of soul? Need wisdom? Need rejoicing of heart? Joy? Need a light to lead the way? Behold the revelation of God to us in his true and perfect Word. What we now know that the Psalmist could only peer into dimly is the culmination of God's revelation to us - THE Word - the logos - the final declaration to us in and through his Son the Lord Jesus Christ - Hebrews 1 - long ago and in various ways he has spoken to us - preserved in Scripture - in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son!
 - a) The Christ - the one who revives our souls, who has become to us wisdom - righteousness, holiness, redemption - THE WORD CAPTURED IN THIS WORD FOR US

14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

- 2. BREATHED OUT - OF THE LORD
 - a) College students - stand here on the Bible - when others undermine the Scriptures - stand here - THE WORD OF THE LORD - difficult things I will think and study I WILL MAKE MY STAND

- C. And so it rightly stands that v. 10 - this Word of the LORD is to be desired and treasured more than much gold - more than all the money in the world

Illustration: 100 million or your Bible and erase all memory of the Scriptures - for those who have tasted and seen that the Lord is good in and through his Word - NEVER.

“In May of 1848, a store keeper from Sutter’s Creek, California named Sam Brannan brandished a bottle filled with gold dust around the town of Sacramento, shouting ‘Gold! Gold! Gold from the American River!’ This announcement was the spark that ignited the California Gold Rush. San Francisco’s harbor was soon cluttered with derelict ships deserted by their crews. Workers abandoned their jobs – San Francisco’s two newspapers were forced to close their doors as their staffs were struck by gold fever. The New York Herald printed news of this discovery of Gold and the rush became a stampede. Tens of thousands traveled to San Francisco, crossing over mountains or boarding ships for the voyage around Cape Horn and up the Pacific Coast.”

1. If 1,000s could upend lives for gold - oh for those of us who feel our need for God say take it all - give me this treasure this word
2. v. 10 This revelation of God to us. It is sweeter than honey - it is pleasurable and delightful

Illustration: Ellen wants honey - just honey - the joy of lapping up that sweetness

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. (Jeremiah 15:16a)

His words are sweet and pleasurable and delightful and we take them in they satisfy

Oh, that you and I might get into the very heart of the Word of God, and get that Word into ourselves! As I have seen the silkworm eat into the leaf, and consume it, so ought we to do with the Word of the Lord—not crawl over its surface, but eat right into it till we have taken it into our inmost parts. It is idle merely to let the eye glance over the words, or to recollect the poetical expressions, or the historic facts; but it is blessed to eat into the very soul of the Bible until, at last, you come to talk in Scriptural language, and your very style is fashioned upon Scripture models, and, what is better still, your spirit is flavored with the words of the Lord. (Charles Spurgeon)

D. Application

1. Is this how you approach the Bible? Is there a discernible treasuring of these precious Words? Do you have a hunger for the sweetness to eat into the very heart of the Word of God?
 - a) An invitation - an invitation to taste and see perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true words of God - that your soul may be revived, that your wisdom would increase, that your heart would rejoice, that your spiritual eyes would be enlightened.
 - (1) Been away - start with the Psalms, 19,23,119 - go to Romans 3 and Romans 8 - take up and read with faith
 - (2) Daily devotions - Spirit open up your Word and show me wonderful things in it - remove all hurdles to my experiencing the treasure and sweetness of your revelation
 - b) Arrive on Sunday with anticipation - your attitude matters - God will speak to me today through his Word - insist that your pastors open up the Word

III. The Right Response to Revelation

- A. v. 11-14 The Psalmist moves from contemplation of the precious revelation of God in his creation and through his Word to a personal response - all of God’s revelation is intended to produce response - not just interesting ideas to be marveled at - indeed there is a mandate for obedience throughout the Bible
 1. Through the Word your servant is warned - warned about the danger of sin - warned about the danger of living in opposition to the Creator, peril of judgment because of sin, warned of the danger to our souls in living outside of God’s will
 2. Conversely - in keeping - obeying - doing the Word there is reward V. 7-10 — all of grace

- B. v. 12 as the Psalmist considers the revelation of God's Word - the call to obedience to the will of God in his Word - David is aware of the reality of sin and whenever one holds one's life up in front of the Bible one will immediately become aware of the many ways in which one fails to live up to the perfect standard of the Word of God.
 - 1. Here, King David humbles himself before God as he reflects on the Word of God - Who can discern his errors - declare me innocent of hidden faults - discernible humility to be emulated - the wise and humble Christian understands just because I'm not aware of sin - I'm aware of my capacity to be ignorant or deceived - declare me innocent

[23] Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! [24] And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalm 139:23-24)

- C. v. 13 Certainly keep me back from presumptuous sins - willful sin - sins against the clear instructions of God - sin against conscience - let them not have dominion over me - very real possibility that we would be dominated - willful sin against God's revealed will in his Word

[12] Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. [13] Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. [14] For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:12-14)

- D. Oh how grateful we are for grace...grace in the face of our hidden and presumptuous sins...grace purchased at Calvary...for there our Savior died in our place bearing our sin and judgment for all our sin that we might be declared innocent and that we might have grace to come out from under the dominion of sin - for all who humble themselves before God and take hold of Christ as he is revealed in his word - DECLARED INNOCENT - he is the Savior of sinners and the one who upholds us by his Spirit to obey.
- E. v. 14 In light of the revelation of your glory in creation and the even greater glory of your revelation in your holy Word - "let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer"
 - 1. Let my words, my thoughts, the core of my being reveal my apprehension, appreciation, submission, and worship of you in your glory - oh that the very essence of my existence be acceptable to you O God of glory
 - a) For this God of glory - he is my rock and my redeemer - he is my strength and my Savior - all that I am to you O LORD!
 - (1) Response to revelation is not just avoiding sin - an active life of obedience and worship from eager desire to please our strength and our Savior - Redeemer - came and got us
 - (a) Lest you feel condemned in the face of your failures - underneath this whole Psalm is our Redeemer our Savior - he is your strength and your help

F. Application

- 1. Informs our words and thought life - oh how we need our minds renewed - increasingly shaped by his Word
- 2. Oh how we need to behold his glory revealed - our hearts would be shaped by an increasing desire to bring glory to the God of all glory
 - a) Heading into this week - consider taking up this Psalm and reading and praying v. 14 with King David READ VERSE
- 3. THIS IS A GREAT PRAYER when entering into difficult conversation
- 4. Oh how pleasing for the words of our mouth to be filled with the Words of God - how a lost and dying world needs to hear those words
 - a) The Bridge - here are some acceptable and pleasing words - would you like to come with me and learn more about Jesus.

Close

He is wisest who reads both the world-book and Word-book as two volumes of the same work, and feels concerning them, 'My Father wrote them both.' (Charles Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*)

Oh how kind of God to reveal himself to us - he didn't have to - reason for endless amazement and gratitude

Mr. Russell - we reject your premise that there is not enough evidence of the existence of God - he has revealed himself as glorious in his creation - greater glory in the revelation of his precious Word

Oh that God would work in us - Greater adoration and renewed spiritual commitment to consciously behold his glory in the heavens - to live upon his Word - SPIRIT WORK IN US THAT WHICH IS PLEASING IN YOUR SIGHT. AMEN.

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