

Subject: *How God Reveals Himself*

Scripture: *Psalms 19:1-14*

This wonderful chapter speaks of the ways God reveals Himself. God is always revealing Himself, and we should always be looking, listening, and learning. By nature God is invisible, but He reveals His character and the Bible calls this His glory which is the sum total of all His attributes. How well do you know God? Would you like to know God better? Psalm 19 describes two primary ways that God reveals who He is.

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN THE SKIES (vs. 1-6)

This is sometimes called “general revelation.” It is unlimited in scope, but limited in content. We are living on what has been called “The Privileged Planet.” Earth is privileged for two main reasons: it has the conditions needed to sustain life and it provides a unique platform to see the rest of the universe. One Christian scientist said our planet is designed for discovery. Earlier this week we saw the super moon, as it was called. Sadly, many people who saw the moon never realized who made that moon and hung it in space.

- God reveals Himself constantly (vs. 1)

The words “declare” and “showeth” are both ongoing (“keep on declaring, showing”). The heavens are constantly revealing the true and living God. The message is unceasing. God has been revealing Himself since the creation of the universe. It has been said that the heavens are “God’s oldest testament.” The heavens refer to the sky and outer space. The Bible speaks of three heavens: the first heaven where clouds form and birds fly; the second heaven where the sun, moon, and stars call home; and the third heaven where God lives. This speaks of the first and second heavens.

- God reveals Himself clearly (vs. 1)

There can be no doubt about the truth He shows. “Declare” means to make known. “Show” means to reveal. Creation reveals the glory and handiwork of God. The thought never occurred to David that God did not exist. God wants us to know the truth about Him.

Romans 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead (His divine nature); so that they are without excuse.* The heavens reveal that God is all-powerful. They reveal that God is a God of order and wonder. Who could look at a sunrise or a sunset and fail to see something wonderful about God. The beauty, order, and detail of creation reveal a Master Designer behind it all.

- God reveals Himself consistently (vs. 2)

The message is unwavering. Day after day the heavens teach us that God is faithful. We expect the sun to rise in the morning and set in the evening. The heavens never grow tired of saying: “The hand that made us and keeps us going is the hand of God.” Scientists talk about the laws of nature and the laws of the universe, but you can’t have laws without someone to make laws and enforce those laws. **Hebrews 1:3** *God upholds all things by the word of His power.* **Colossians 1:17** *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

- God reveals Himself convincingly (vs. 3-6)

The message is universal and unspoken. God reveals Himself in a way that everybody can understand. A picture is worth a thousand words. The tribesman in Africa can see the same sun as the scientist in America and understand the same message. The sun is described like a bridegroom. This speaks of the anticipation of its rising. The sun is also like a runner in a race. This speaks of determination to finish its daily course. The truth about God is unmistakable. A missionary in a primitive country had been trying to witness to a local chief about the nature and character of God. The chief pointed to his idols, “These are my gods. Now show me your God and maybe I will believe in him.” The missionary explained that God is invisible and can’t be seen by human eyes. The chief was not impressed. He said, “I can see my gods, but you can’t show me yours.” Then the missionary got an idea. He said, “I can’t show you my God, but I can show you one of His messengers. Let me blindfold you here in your hut and then I’ll lead you to him.” The chief agreed. The missionary blindfolded him and took him outside the hut and told him to take off the blindfold and look toward the sky. The chief couldn’t stand to look up at the direct light of the sun. The missionary said, “That, sir, is but one of the *servants* of my God. That’s why you can’t see Him.” The sun spoke a language even the chief could understand. Nothing escapes the sun’s heat and light. Every person has the evidence that there is a God who is great and glorious and should be worshiped and obeyed. Have you wondered whether heathen people are lost and need to be saved? What about people who have never heard the Gospel? Does God hold them accountable? God does hold them accountable for what they know about Him.

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN THE SCRIPTURES (vs. 7-14)

The truth about God revealed in the skies is wonderful, but it is limited. Now David moves from general revelation to special revelation. The creation of billions of stars is written in five simple words, “He made the stars also,” (Gen. 1:16). In the skies God reveals that He exists and that He is great, orderly, wise, powerful, majestic, and faithful. The skies can’t tell us about His plan to save us. The skies can’t tell us of His mercy and grace, about heaven and hell, and about Jesus Christ the only Lord and Savior. Francis Bacon said “the heavens declare the glory of God, but not His will.”

- The authority of Scripture

Each of these titles for God’s Word ends with the words “of the Lord.” All Scripture comes from the Lord and is about the Lord. He is the source and the subject of the Word. The Bible is not man’s attempt to discover God and His plan. It is God’s revelation of Himself and His plan to man, something which we never know on our own.

- The attributes of Scripture

Each of these titles tells us something important about God’s Word. *Law of the Lord* (Heb., *torah*), doctrine, teaching, instruction is “perfect” meaning complete, whole, without flaw or defect; *testimony of the Lord*, from the word “to bear witness,” testifies to the divine author. God’s witness is “sure” meaning it is confirmed or supported when put to the test. *The statutes of the Lord*, appointed or specific teachings, are “right” meaning straight and absolutely correct, just like God. *The commandment of the Lord* refers to a definite command ordained by the Lord, and it is morally pure. *The fear of the Lord* is another synonym for God’s Word since it produces reverence for God and promotes moral purity as stated in **Deuteronomy 4:10** *Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my*

words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. Last of all, *the judgments of the Lord* are righteous decisions, binding laws, handed down by God, the Supreme Judge. All of His decisions on all matters are “true” and “righteous” meaning they are 100% accurate.

- The abilities of Scripture

It does what no other book can do: converts (lit., restores) the soul, makes wise the simple (literally, closes the open door or a naïve person’s mind), rejoices the heart, and enlightens the eyes (gives discernment, the ability to tell right from wrong, truth from error). It has life within it, gives life, and sustains life. Martin Luther said, “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me.” We read other books, but the Bible reads us.

- The appreciation of Scripture

It is worth more than fine gold. God’s Word is worth more than the most precious metal and is sweeter than the sweetest thing on earth.

- The application of Scripture

By God’s Word we are warned and we are blessed. We need warnings to keep us from doing the wrong thing, and we need rewards to motivate us to do the right thing. Mark Twain once said, “It’s not the part I don’t understand in the Bible that bothers me. It’s the part I do understand.”

The rest of this psalm shows us how the Scripture is applied to our lives. Scripture is used to reveal sin (vs. 11, 12), and to restrain sin (vs. 13). **Psalms 119:11** *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* It guides our words and our thoughts so that we are pleasing to God (vs. 14). The word “acceptable” (vs. 14) is the same word used of sacrifices brought to God in worship. As we read and understand and apply God’s Word we think and act in ways that God approves and blesses. The true test of whether the Word is changing our lives is how we speak and how we think. **Romans 12:2** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

THANK GOD FOR HIS WORD

- ✓ God’s Word is our greatest possession (more valuable than gold)
- ✓ God’s Word is our greatest pleasure (sweeter than honey)
- ✓ God’s Word is our greatest protector (warning us of danger; keeping us from sin)
- ✓ God’s Word is our greatest prize (obedience brings great reward)