

“God Revealed – Part 1”
Psalm 19
(Preached at Trinity, February 7, 2010)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The 19th Psalm is a great psalm of revelation, of declaration. It begins, “The heavens declare the glory of God”
2. God has to be declared. Or more precisely, God has to reveal Himself. Theologically, God is transcendent. Philosophically this means the God exceeds the limits of human experience. He is beyond our comprehension. God exists outside our material existence.
3. This means that God is unknowable except by His direct revelation of Himself. Out of His mercy God has chosen to reveal Himself to fallen humanity.
4. David is saying that God’s glory was being declared. What is God’s glory? We’ve looked at it many times. For the sake of this text let me briefly set it before you again. There is intrinsic glory and ascribed glory.
 - A. God’s intrinsic glory is the sum of His divine attributes. Attributes such as God’s holiness, justice, goodness, power, sovereignty, omniscience, etc. When we say that God does all things for His own glory we mean that God is manifesting His divine essence in it. God displays this glory in all of creation.
 - B. As God manifests His glory to us we are to give Him glory – the glory we owe to Him. This is ascribed glory.
 1. As Christians we have a responsibility to recognize and acclaim the glory that God possesses.
Psalm 29:2 – “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
1 Corinthians 10:31 – “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”
 2. We have a duty to declare God’s glory to all men.
5. How does God reveal His intrinsic glory? How does God declare Himself to man? There are basically two ways:
Natural Revelation and Special Revelation. **Psalm 19** speaks to these.
6. The superscription is very brief: Only that it was to be delivered to the chief musician to lead Israel in their worship and it was penned by David.
7. **Psalm 19** is divided into three parts:
Verses 1-6 – David discusses Natural or General Revelation
Verses 7-11 – David discusses Special Revelation
Verses 12-14 – David applies this revelation to himself
8. God’s revelation demands a response—the response of submission and obedience.

I. **Verses 1-6** – David discusses Natural or General Revelation

(Give a brief exposition of the passage)

A. David begins with the marvelous statement:

Psalm 19:1 – “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”

1. Creation is shouting the existence of its Creator
2. Paul says that this revelation of God is so sure and definite that no one can mistake the existence of God.
3. It is so sure that all men are left without excuse.

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; so that they are without excuse.”

4. It is so sure that to deny God is the greatest stupidity

Psalm 14:1 – “The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.* They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good.*”

5. You cannot cast your eye across the earth without seeing the evidence of God’s divine power in creation. We see God’s power and majesty as He rules all things.

- a. The natural revelation of creation should cause all men to bow before the infinite power of the Creator
- b. The natural revelation of creation should cause all men to bow before God’s goodness in love and gratitude.
- c. Instead we suppress the truth about God

6. There are several things we need to understand about this revelation

B. First, it is a limited revelation

1. While it declares the glory of God it doesn’t contain a moral element
 - a. General revelation declares certain foundational truths about God. It declares the existence of God, the greatness of God, and the wisdom of God
But it doesn’t declare God’s moral qualities such as justice, mercy, wrath etc. Paul describes the limit of this revelation
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; so that they are without excuse.”
Godhead = Divine nature
 - b. While it demands the worship of God, it doesn’t declare God’s demands upon humanity

2. General revelation doesn’t point men to Christ

C. Second, general revelation is universal

1. It is a continuous revelation
Psalm 19:2 – “Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.”
2. It is unspoken, yet the sound is loud and clear
3. It is universal in scope – **Verses 3-4** - It is available to all people.
4. David describes the sun that shines upon all and gives heat to all – **4-6**

- D. Thirdly, general revelation is abundant
1. “Day unto day uttereth speech”
The word “uttereth” (נָבַע naba`) in the KJV means to “pour out” or “gush forth”
The same word in Psalm 59
Psalm 59:7 Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear?”
 2. The declaration of God gushes forth from creation
 3. Look around you at the abundant evidence of our Creator
The majesty of the mountains
The power of the storm
The beauty of the meadow
The complexity of life
 4. This revelation demands a response of obedience and submission and worship to our Creator

II. Verses 7-11 – David discusses Special Revelation

- A. Special revelation goes far beyond the foundational truths of general revelation
1. The Word of God is God’s fullest revelation of Himself upon the earth
 2. Still, it is not the full revelation of God
 3. God is infinite in His being. We can’t grasp the fullness of God. Much of God’s essence is kept hidden from us – they are the secrets of God. But that which He has revealed is breathtaking.
 4. This revelation requires absolute obedience.
- B. David describes the Word of God in various ways using various words
1. “The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul” – from the word Torah
 - a. The Bible is whole, complete, sufficient
 - b. Where natural revelation is incomplete, the Word of God is full. We are in need of nothing else to point us to Christ; nothing else for our conversion, nothing else for our perfection.
2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
 2. “The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple” –
 - a. “Testimony” refers to a sure witness
 - b. In God’s Word is true wisdom
Psalm 119:99 – “I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation.”
 3. “The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart” –
 - a. Statues refer to God’s commandments
 - b. They are righteous.
 - c. In God’s Word is joy unspeakable. True happiness is found in holiness.

4. “The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes” –
 - a. The word here is Mitsvah – another word for commandment. It refers to a code of wisdom
 - b. God’s Word provides illumination. It gives us understanding
5. “The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever”
 - a. David inserts this not so much as a description but the fruit it produces
 - b. The Word of God produces purity. It washes away filth.
Ephesians 5:25-26 – “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”
 - c. The Word of God is eternal, unchanging
Matthew 24:35 – “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”
6. “The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether” –
 - a. mishpat – proper execution of justice
 - b. God’s Word is His perfect standard, true and righteous
 - c. Our response is to obey and submit
7. “More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold”
 “Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”
 - a. God’s Word is of the greatest value for us; of far greater value than the riches of this world.
 - b. God’s Word is sweetness, food for our soul
 The Godly man feasts upon it
See Psalm 119:97-104

Conclusion:

1. God is a revealing, declaring God. He reveals Himself both by natural revelation and by special revelation. Both are true. Both are undeniable.
 Spurgeon wrote, “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.”
2. God’s revelation of Himself demands that we obey Him and worship Him.
3. It is interesting in our day of hyper-environmentalism that so much attention is given to creation. Should not given even greater attention to God’s Word? If we stand in awe and appreciation of nature how much more should we not stand in awe of God’s Word.
4. God’s glory is manifested through creation and through His Word. May we stand in awe of both but especially in His Word as we dive in daily to see more and more of His glory revealed.