

Series: *Christ's Preeminence Demonstrated*

Title: "Christless Eyes Have Never Seen" (Psalm 119:18)

Speaker: Dr. Paul M. Elliott

Original Air Date: Week of 3/17/2019

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*Today we present the second segment of a
three-part message focusing on Psalm 119:18.*

"Open my eyes, that I may see." Biblical truth is revealed truth. Man does not discover it or understand it on his own. He cannot.

Biblical truth is revelation from God. Biblical truth consists of God's facts, not man's opinions. To understand Biblical truth requires God's enlightenment by His Spirit. To obey Biblical truth requires God's illumination.

"Wondrous Things"

And what is the nature of that truth? The psalmist calls it "wondrous things." Again, this is a rich term in the original. It speaks of things that are surpassingly marvellous. It speaks of things that are extraordinary. It speaks of things that are beyond mere human power to perceive. All of that is embodied in this word.

The Scripture-driven Christian can see what the unregenerated world cannot see. Let me put it to you in a very basic way. The Christian sees a different world than the ungodly see. The blue of the sky is a different blue than the ungodly see. The green of the grass is a different green.

As the hymn writer has put it, "Something lives in every hue" – even in the very colors of the creation – that "Christless eyes have never seen"

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The difference is that fundamental, that basic. A fundamental difference in the way the Christian looks at the entire world, because God has opened our eyes to behold wondrous things out of His law. What things?

First of all, wondrous things about Himself. That He exists. That He created this universe, out of nothing, in six days. That He created us as the pinnacle of His creation.

Secondly, wondrous things about ourselves. We were created to have fellowship with our Creator, and all the benefits that pour out of that relationship.

Also, our lost condition. Why is that "wondrous"? It is wondrous because God in His mercy does not merely annihilate us. He could have wiped the slate clean when our first parents sinned. But God did not do that.

Thirdly, God's Word teaches us wondrous things about Christ. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Fourthly, God's Word teaches us wondrous things about this present world. The wondrous thing about this world is that

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:19-21)

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Fifthly, God's Word teaches us wondrous things about the world to come.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:10-13)

"From Your Law"

Wondrous things. And where do we learn them? "From Your law," the psalmist says. And here again, the Hebrew is rich. Those three words – "from Your law" – mean that these wondrous things are by reason of God's law. They are in accordance with God's law. And they have certainty because they are God's law, God's Word.

This phrase in the Hebrew also emphasizes the ownership of this Law – that it is God's law, that it emanates from His mind, from His being, and not from the mind and being of fallen man. It is not of human origin. It is not from the mind of the natural man. It is from the mind of the holy God of the universe.

And this phrase in the original also emphasizes the fact that God's law, God's Word,

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is a written Word. A written body of instruction. Given by inspiration of God. Forever settled. Unchanging and unchangeable, because it is exactly like its Author and Owner.

"From Your law," the psalmist says. The third emphasis in the words is that what God reveals in His law, and what God teaches from His law, is a matter of facts and certainty, not subjective opinion.

Let me again relate these facts about the Law of God to the horrible sin that our government has further plunged this nation into, this past week.

When man makes laws that are in keeping with God's law, he makes laws that act to restrain sin in this present world. When man makes laws that are contrary to God's law, man increases his condemnation before God. That is the position we as a nation are now in.

Let me give you a brief history lesson about the United States of America and the law of God. In 1902, Theodore Roosevelt was the last president of the United States to speak of the direct intervention of God against a nation when it forgets God's law – as Theodore Roosevelt put it, [and I am quoting] "when the hand of the Lord [is] heavy upon [a nation] in drought or flood or pestilence, when in bodily distress and in anguish of soul [the nation pays] the penalty of folly and a [habitually disobedient] heart."

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the last to mention the Law of God as the nation's standard in an official presidential statement. The last president to call upon Americans to "bow before God in contrition for our sins" was Dwight Eisenhower in 1953.

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Now the best evidence we have is that none of these men were Christian believers. But they were brought up reading the Bible. By God's hand they at least understood that much.

But since 1973 in particular our government, our courts, our legislatures, have increasingly made laws that are contrary to God's law – laws and court rulings that are plunging this nation and this world further and further into sinful horrors that would have been unimaginable within the lifetime of my parents. And in the past decade the pace of the spread of evil in this country through the propagation of ungodly laws has become literally breathtaking.

Dear friends, if we ever needed a reminder of the fact that this present evil world is indeed evil, and that this present evil world is indeed perishing, and if we ever needed to be reminded of the fact that we are commanded to love not the world, neither the things that are in the world – well dear friends, we have most certainly been reminded of those things this past week.

And these things should also remind every Christian of the fact that God's law has a far greater and eternal purpose than the restraint of sin in this present perishing world.

What is that purpose? Galatians chapter 3, verse 24: "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ," – to show us our desperate condition, to show us our need of Christ, to show us what Christ has done on behalf of sinners – Why? – "that we might be justified by faith."

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"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4). Christ is the end of the law – literally, in the original, He is the end to which all things relate that pertain to the Law of God.

It is the Law of God that shows us what Christ has done, and why He has done it. It is the Law of God that truly shows us that everything Christ has done, He has done in relation to the Law.

Christ is the One who perfectly obeyed the Law that we cannot keep.

Christ is the One who took upon His own sinless self our violation of God's Law. He bore our sins in His own body on the Cross.

Christ is the One who paid the penalty of God's Law on our behalf.

Christ is the One who has thus redeemed us from the curse of the Law.

Christ is the One who has thus given us, undeserving sinners, justification before the holy God of the universe – He is the One who made it possible for us, guilty sinners, deserving of Hell, to be declared "not guilty" before the judgment bar of God, given the robe of Jesus' perfect righteousness. And therefore, as Romans 8:33 declares to us, no one in all the universe can bring a charge against God's elect. God who was our condemning judge is now God our loving Father – but only because of what Christ has done in relation to the Law.

Psalm 19 verse 7 tells us that it is the law of the Lord that is perfect – that is, spotless and complete – converting, or bringing back, the soul.

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Application – For the Christian

"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things out of Your Law." Let me say a word to Christians this morning. Do you understand your true position, according to the Word of God, the Law of God?

The people who walked in darkness have seen great light. You have a power of perception that the world does not have. You have a Person living within you that the world does not know. You have a Book in your hands that only you can truly understand. And as Christians, we must resist the sinful propensity to lapse back into the effects of our former condition by neglecting God's Word.

This message will be concluded on our next program.

About the Broadcast

The Scripture-Driven Church airs each week across the United States and around the world. Our goal is to obey Christ's Great Commission: preaching the Gospel to all, and equipping believers in Christ to live every area of life by the sole authority of Scripture, to the glory of our Lord and Savior.

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