

“The Wonder of God’s Word”  
Psalm 119:129-136  
(Preached at Trinity, March 10, 2013)

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. James Montgomery Boice lamented that our modern world has lost the sense of wonder and awe.
  - A. Television and movies create every conceivable special effect and God’s gift of the imagination is lulled asleep. Few things leave us in awe and wonder.
  - B. Worse, even children are being robbed of the wonder of childhood where every day is filled with new discoveries; where vivid imagination fills their world with marvelous possibilities. I love watching my grandchildren with eyes sparkling with amazement at things I’m long ago ceased to marvel at.
2. But there are some things over which we must never cease to be amazed. The psalmist begins this stanza by declaring that the Word of God fills his mind with wonder.
3. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> stanza of **Psalm 119** and is designated by the Hebrew letter פ - Pe. As with each of the other stanzas this stanza contains 8 verses, each beginning with this same Hebrew letter. The first word is פִּלְאוֹ which is translated “Wonderful, marvelous”  
**Psalm 119:129 KJV** - "Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them."
4. This describes our God.  
**Exodus 15:11 KJV** - "Who *is* like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who *is* like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful *in* praises, doing wonders?"  
**Job 5:8-9 KJV** - "I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: <sup>9</sup> Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:"  
Jesus the eternal Word is called Wonderful  
**Isaiah 9:6 KJV** - ". . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."
5. But David never ceased to link God with His Word. God’s Word is also filled him with wonder and awe.  
**Psalm 119:129 KJV** - "Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them."
6. The Word of God is worthy of our delight and our submission because it is God’s revelation of Himself and His requirement for us. We stand in wonder of God’s Word because we stand in wonder of Him. Because we hold the Word of God as a treasure, wondrous and marvelous we conform our lives to it.

7. Years ago Larnelle Harris and Sandi Patty recorded a song titled “More Than Wonderful”  
*More than amazing*  
*More than marvelous*  
*More than miraculous could ever be*  
*He's more than wonderful*  
*That's what Jesus is to me*
8. For us God’s Word is also truly amazing and wonderful.  
**Psalm 119:18 KJV** - "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."
9. Tonight I want to set before you two reasons why God’s Word is wonderful.
- I. God’s Word is wonderful because of its Author
  - II. God’s Word is wonderful because it gives understanding & direction
- I. God’s Word is wonderful because of its Author  
**Psalm 119:129 KJV** - "Thy testimonies *are* wonderful"
- A. Notice that, like almost all of the verses in **Psalm 119**, every verse points to God
    1. It is the “Word of God.” This is God’s revelation. His name is written from beginning to end.  
 The Bible begins, “In the beginning God”  
 It ends, "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen."
    2. He gave His Word, preserved it, and overshadows it with His presence.
  - B. God can only be known by revelation – He must make Himself known.  
**Verse 135** - "Make thy face to shine upon thy servant"
    1. God has given all men the general revelation of Creation and Providence.  
**Romans 1:20 KJV** - " 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:"
    2. Creation reveals two things about God
      - a. His power  
 “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. . .”
      - b. His divinity or as the KJV says, His Godhead  
 “*even his eternal power and Godhead*”
    3. Paul says that through Creation and Providence these things are clearly seen  
 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen”
    4. God exists and power and glory are unmistakable  
**Psalm 19:1-3** – “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. <sup>2</sup> Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. <sup>3</sup> *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.”

5. God's natural revelation is an incomplete and limited disclosure of God. It doesn't contain the message of redemption.  
Yet, it is sufficient to leave all men without excuse. The uncivilized native in the deepest jungle will stand before God justly condemned.

C. God has revealed Himself in the special revelation of His Word  
It is a wondrous revelation of Divine Truth

1. God is in His Word – Look at **Verse 35**  
"Make thy face to shine upon thy servant"
2. He has revealed His love and mercy. He had taught us of His justice and truth. He has plainly taught us what He requires of us giving us His Law
3. And He has revealed to us His redemptive purpose in the Gospel.
4. We stand amazed at the Word of God. Every time Jesus spoke the people stood amazed.

**Luke 4:36 KJV** - "And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word *is* this!"

D. The Bible is truly amazing

1. It is perfect in every way  
Every other book in this world written by men, even the best, are flawed and imperfect. But the Bible is perfect. It was written by over 30 different persons living at different times spanning over 1500 years and yet there is perfect harmony. They all tell the same story, one God, one account of the human heart, one way of salvation, without contradiction.  
**Psalms 19:7-8 KJV** - "The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes."
2. God has preserved His Word. It has been over 1900 years since it was completed. The original copies have been lost and yet God has maintained His Word for every generation of Christians.
3. It has had a greater influence even upon the heathen than any other book
  - a. God had burned His Law upon the heart of man in such a way that human laws reflect it.
  - b. It has become a part of the vocabulary of multitudes who have never read it  
"feet of clay" "reaping the whirlwind" "thorn in the flesh" "labor of love" "my brother's keeper" "lamb to the slaughter" "fly in the ointment" "powers that be" "salt of the earth" "sour grapes"  
"falling flat on one's face" "a broken heart" "drop in the bucket"  
"seeing eye to eye" "putting words in one's mouth" "the root of the matter"---all come from the Bible
4. We must stand in wonder and awe of God's Word

II. God's Word is wonderful because it gives understanding and direction

A. The Word of God is God's bright illuminating light

**Psalms 119:130 KJV** - "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

1. This verse implies that we are in darkness. The Word of God shines forth with illumination.

2. David declared this in **Verse 105**  
**Psalms 119:105 KJV** - "Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
- B. It instructs even those with the least understanding
1. The word for "simple" in **Verse 130** means "simple minded" – those with a limited capacity for knowledge.
  2. Paul stated that the deep things of God are not reserved for the wise. In fact the wise in this world are often excluded from such high knowledge.  
**1 Corinthians 1:20 KJV** - "Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"  
**1 Corinthians 1:26-27 KJV** - "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.<sup>27</sup> But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise"
  3. Jesus described those who possess spiritual understanding as being like children.  
**Matthew 11:25 KJV** - "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."
- C. The Bible contains all things necessary for being reconciled to God
1. **Verse 132** is the last verse in **Psalms 119** that doesn't directly make reference to the Word of God and yet it speaks to God's reconciling grace. "Look thou upon me and be merciful unto me"
  2. There is no knowledge necessary for salvation except the knowledge found in the Word of God
  3. The Holy Spirit is miraculously present with illuminating grace—it is the living Word  
**Psalms 119:135 KJV** - "Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes."
    - a. He opens our minds to understand. He applies it to our consciences, He conforms our wills to it.
    - b. The word for "entrance" in **Verse 130** also refers to an opening. Applied here it refers to a "revealing." The "revealing" of God's Word brings light.
    - c. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the mysteries of God's Divine purposes  
**Romans 11:33 KJV** - "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"  
**1 Corinthians 2:9-10 KJV** - "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.<sup>10</sup> But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

4. Only the Bible is powerful unto salvation  
**James 1:21 NAS** - "Therefore putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."  
**Hebrews 4:12 KJV** - "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
- D. God's Word is wonderful because in it we find direction for life  
**Psalm 119:133 KJV** - "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."  
**Psalm 119:135 KJV** - "Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes."
1. The Bible doesn't claim to teach worldly wisdom. It isn't a book of astronomy or mathematics. It wasn't given to instruct us in biology or nuclear physics or aerodynamics. It doesn't provide instruction to equip a person to become a doctor or engineer.
  2. Yet, no other book gives us the mind of God—of knowing His ways. We are not left without a counsellor. We are not left to the vanity of human imagination.
  3. Only the Bible gives us instruction on how we might please God. It alone gives us God's standard of morality
    - a. There are many books that teach morality and rules of law. There is the Book of Mormon, the Koran – feeble works from the hands and hearts of man.  
 There's Hammurabi's Code dating back to 1772 BC known for its judicial reasoning.
    - b. But only the Bible declares God's rule of behavior  
 Only by God's Word can we pray, "Order my steps" "teach me thy statutes."  
 Only by God's Word are we given God's way of truth and honesty. God's instruction for husbands and wives and children. Only God's Word gives us instruction for Sabbath keeping
- E. God's Word alone gives us our direction in life  
**Psalm 119:130 KJV** - "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."
1. And it will be the Word of God alone that will give you guidance and comfort in death. How sad that so many Christians are so poorly acquainted with this wondrous Book.
  2. J.C. Ryle – "There is not a jot of real consolation for any dying man, unless he gets it from the Bible. Chapters, passages, texts, promises, and doctrines of Scripture—heard, received, believed, and rested on—these are the only comforters I dare promise to anyone, when he leaves the world. I might show you the happy deathbeds of those who have loved the Bible and believed it, and the blessed effect the sight of their deathbeds had on others. And this I am bold to say, that the man who thinks to go to his deathbed without having the Bible for his comforter, his companion, and his friend, is one of the greatest madmen in the world."

Conclusion:

1. In our day when we have lost the sense of awe and wonder do you still stand amazed at God and His Word?
2. Do you approach the Bible with wonder and dive into it with amazement.  
Too many are guilty of neglecting God's Word.  
J.C. Ryle – "No gift of God to man is so awfully neglected and misused as the Bible. One sweeping charge may be brought against the whole of Christendom, and that charge is neglect and abuse of the Bible. I am well aware that there are more Bibles at this moment than there ever were since the world began. There is more Bible buying and Bible selling, more Bible printing and Bible distributing than ever before. We see Bibles of every size, price, and style—Bibles great and Bibles small. But all this time I fear we are in danger of forgetting that to *have* the Bible is one thing, and to *read* it quite another."
3. For those who have discovered this wonderful gift it becomes their great delight
  - a. David lusted after the Word of God  
**Psalm 119:131 KJV** - "I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments."
  - b. Like a man dying of thirst he panted after God's Word.
  - c. There are only two things we find in the Psalms that are worthy of panting after.  
God and His Word  
**Psalm 42:1-2 KJV** - "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"