

## EXPOSITION

## I. CREATION REVELATION – vv.1-6

- 1.) The substance of this message – “the glory of God.” God’s magnificence. His wisdom (in design), eternal power (in the sun), goodness (in provision), and wrath (in frightening displays).
  - 2.) The means of this message – “His handiwork”, especially what is seen in the “heavens”
  - 3.) The clarity of this message – revealed in “speech”, “knowledge”, “voice”, “line”, and “words”.
  - 4.) The scope of this message – It is sent out and understood everywhere, “to the ends of the world”
- Romans 1:18-20 this revelation of God leaves men without excuse in their idolatry, exchanging the worship of this God for the worship of creatures and creation. These things are already known to all, though there is a suppression of that truth in unrighteousness, to not be accountable and submissive to this God.
  - While there are many true and good things about God revealed there, it is insufficient by itself to communicate how man, having committed idolatry in his heart, can be made right with this God. Something else is needed.

## II. REDEMPTIVE REVELATION

- Terms used to identify – “the law”, “testimony”, “statutes”, “commandment”, “fear”, “judgments” – “of the Lord.” All of these are used to speak of the written revelation of the Bible. What God says, declares, or commands. His judgement and estimation of things.
- Terms used to describe their quality – perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, enduring forever, completely true and righteous. Not “negotiable truth” but absolute true truth.

## What Scriptures Can Do

- 1.) Convert the soul – this means to turn back, cause to return, draw back, restore. We are naturally fallen and rebellious against this God, suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. What is found in the Word of God can bring a person to the place of turning back to God. There is found what is needed in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ of how man can turn back to, and be received by Him. It shows how we can be restored to God’s favor.
- 2.) Make wise the simple – the simple are those who are naïve (about truth) or foolish. We are all naturally ignorant of the ways of God. We live in God’s world but are by and large ignorant and indifferent to those things that please Him. Without our receiving God’s Word, we would continue in that foolishness. But after conversion, turning back to God, His Word teaches us wisdom. This wisdom is learning how to live as God intends us to live, and glorifying Him with our lives. Regardless of one’s education or upbringing, with a knowledge of Scriptures comes true wisdom.
- 3.) Rejoice the heart – There is much sorrow in this world. The consequences of bad decisions, difficult marriages, wayward children, physical illness,
- 4.) Enlighten the eyes – Because of our sin and rebellion, our “eyes” or understanding is darkened. We walk in this world blinded to God’s truth, not knowing what we are living for, stupidly doing things that hurt us and others and yet we continue to do them. There is a spiritual blindness which God’s Word can cure. It brings light, and brings illumination so that we can see and understand what things truly are.
- 5.) It is a precious treasure – The world pursues riches, fame, and comfort. It is easy to be enticed by these things and think that this is what life is all about. We desire our creature-comforts, and think that if we have enough money in our bank account we will be happy and content. But for one who has come to understand the salvation of the Lord, there is something they treasure far above earthly gain. The Bible becomes for them more desirable than stuff. Because God reveals Himself there, and the way of wisdom, how to be made right with God, their Bible becomes their most prized possession.
- 6.) It is a delicious treat – For one who has come to know God, there is something very “subjectively” pleasant to them about Scripture. The Psalmist describes it a sweeter than honey. In Bible times honey was a rare delicacy and luxury. The promised land was described as a land flowing with milk and honey. Psalm 119:103 says “How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!”
- 7.) Warning the servant of God – Those who become followers of Christ are those who are God’s servants. They live for His glory, and gladly submit to His ways. They want to please Him and do those things that bring His commendation. However, with our straying hearts, it is easy to go off the path. The Word of God is that which warns His servant, and tells of the pitfalls and traps and difficulties that lie ahead if the way of righteousness is not kept. For this reason, the slave of Christ is happy for those warnings, that he may please his Master.
- 8.) Bring great reward – Because God is pleased when we walk in His ways, there are wonderful rewards that come from doing so. There is the reward of His fellowship, knowing God, walking with a good conscience, being a blessing to others, and ultimately to be able to stand before God without shame in the day of judgement. There can also be other blessings in this world such as God’s blessing in our temporary needs, but these are just that: temporary. The one with a heart for God wants everlasting blessings and rewards.
- 9.) An understand of our sin – Because of our fallenness, we are always tempted to justify our sin. Because of sin, there can be a blindness to our faults, and with a hardening in that sin, we can become worse and worse. In vv.12-13 there is a progression from secret faults (either things that we hide from others or sins we hide from ourselves), presumptuous sins (things we knowingly do expecting God to forgive us), to great transgression (life dominating sins

that bring into bondage and slavery). This verse is a plea that, through the Word of God, we would know cleansing, freedom, and keeping from great sins.

10.) Total God-pleasing transformation – Through the usage of the Word of God, the Psalmist turns and prays that what He says (outward) and what he is (inward) may be acceptable in the sight of God who sees all things. He desires complete transformation, and it is clear that he cannot do this without the Scriptures. Yet, he knows that He needs God's blessing on the Scriptures to change him from the inside out. It is the LORD revealed in that Bible who is his strength and redeemer.

- He cannot be good enough of Himself, and needs a Redeemer who will forgive in great mercy and compassion. Ultimately this Redeemer is revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ as the one who died on the cross to save sinner. He paid the penalty for sin that those who believe on Him could be forgiven and have His righteousness given to them.

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#### APPLICATION

- **Do you desire these 10 things?** Is this what you really want? The evidence of being a true Christian is the desire for these things. If you do not desire them, then you are still in your sins. You are still in rebellion against God, and your end is destruction if you continue in this way.
- **If you desire these things, do you think you will gain them without the Word of God?** Not merely having a Bible. You could have 100 Bibles and yet be completely ignorant of them. It is only as the Word is assimilated through prayerful reading and study that you can know these blessings.
- It is a special privilege to have the Word of God in our possession. While the creation revelation is universally declared, this revelation only goes as far as the Bible goes. It is a great sin to neglect our Bibles.
- **If you are not a Christian the place you will find God clearly and redemptively revealed is in the Bible.** If you say things like "I don't feel sinful", "I don't understand the Gospel", "I don't know who Jesus is", "I don't know if there is such a thing as truth", "I don't know how to please God" – then take up the Bible and read and don't stop until you find peace.
- God Himself has made a declaration about all people, and that is that He has through His creation revealed Himself clearly and unmistakably. The person who says "there is no God" is actively suppressing (holding down) the truth in unrighteousness. While the debates about God continue, and some would arrogantly put God on trial, something else is actually true. God puts us on trial. It is like a person standing before a judge, then because of their desire to avoid punishment, turns to the jury to convince them that the judge does not exist. In the midst of this insanity the judge declares the person as guilty, and they are taken away to their punishment.
- Believing the Gospel is to admit what one already knows, that God is there and they will give an account to this God. They turn to the judge for mercy, and the judge points to Jesus Christ and says "if you will trust in Him and turn from your cosmic crimes, you will find mercy."