

A Short Summary of Sunday's Sermon: Ps. 19—an example of something we find often in scripture: revelation & response.

In the first six verses, David revels in God's revelation in nature, which is His handiwork. Though the heavens and the sky, the day and the night, do not audibly speak, they still "declare" and "reveal", and we read of "their voice" and "their words". Also, each of them "proclaims". Specifically, God's world declares the glory of God. Yet, according to Romans 1:18-20, natural revelation only makes sinners responsible, not responsive to God. Creation does not bring conversion. Yet the Psalmist, who has experienced God's saving power, sees in nature a call to rejoice in the one who he calls "my Redeemer" at the end of the Psalm. This verse from a hymn expresses something similar to what David experiences and expresses in this first section:

All thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Fields and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Following this first part of the Psalm, David begins to speak of God's revelation in Scripture. This is the mode of God's revelation in which God's saving power is invested. God's word brings saving results. There are several things made clear about God's word in verses 7-12. David is here referring to God's written word as he has it. This would be the first five books of the Bible and possibly Joshua also. Isn't it easy to conclude, that what he says about the beginning of our Bible is true of all of it?

Since this is so, it is made very clear here that the Bible is totally trustworthy. The Psalm says it is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true, and righteous altogether. The first of these means, according to Albert Barnes, that when you read the Bible, "there is nothing there which would lead men into error or sin; there is nothing essential for man to know which may not be found there."

We also learn here that the word of God is transforming. We see that God's sure and sufficient word is God's saving word. It is the way God does his work of "converting or reviving the soul", "making wise the simple", "rejoicing the heart", and "enlightening the eyes". No wonder Paul would later write, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first but also to the Greek."

David goes on to talk about how he treasured God's trustworthy and transforming word. He says it is more to be desired than much fine gold and sweeter than honey from the honeycomb. The desires and values that are expressed here are the consequences of conversion. All King David needed for his forgiveness, holiness and gladness were found in the small portion of God's word he possessed, because it pointed forward to Jesus. David trusted in Jesus, indirectly, by believing the texts he had which foreshadowed and foretold the gospel of Christ.

The Psalm ends with the King's response to his redeemer. In the last three verses, we see how he responds with prayer.

Israel's King wants to be pardoned, especially for his sins of ignorance. He asked specifically "declare me innocent from hidden faults". He knew he had blind spots and was certainly guilty of much sin that he did not discern. He knew he was more sinful than he knew. Since there were sins that were unknown, there were sins that were unconfessed, and so he asks to be justified for his sins, including sins he didn't discern.

David also prayed to be protected by God, especially from presumptuous sins. These sins are the opposite of unknown sins. They are deliberate sins. He asks God to keep him back from deliberate sins because they can easily become dominating sins, and ultimately damning sins. This is what he means by "great transgression". Because David is God's servant, God will keep him back from dominating, deliberate sins. The fact that the danger of "great transgression" creates this kind of fear and prayer from David reveals how warnings of eternal judgment work in the hearts of those who are servants of God, resulting in their preservation and perseverance in faith.

Finally, we hear his prayer to be pleasing to God. The desire to please God, not just in ways that are outward, but also on the inside is the clearest evidence of conversion. Do you have a desire for the meditations of your heart to be pleasing to God? Are you motivated to please God even when you could engage in evil without anyone in this world knowing about it?