

Psalm 19:7-11
God's Revealed Truth in the Bible

Introduction: To paraphrase C. S. Lewis' comments on this psalm, David has related how he has experienced the penetrating, ever-present heat of the sun (19:1-6). Now he relates how he cannot escape the penetrating glare of the Word, searching out all the hiding-places of his soul. As Ronald Allen reminds us, "God reveals His glory more fully in His Word than in all of creation." (*Praise!*, 140)

We should acknowledge the attributes of the Word of God—19:7a-9a

- 1) Sufficient teaching—⁷ *The law [torah] of Yahweh is perfect [tamim],*
- 2) Reliable statement of Israel's duties—*the testimony [eduth] of Yahweh is sure [aman],*
 - a) The most likely refers to God's covenant with Israel as found in the Law.
- 3) Upright statement of Israel's responsibilities—⁸ *The precepts [piqqud] of Yahweh are right [yashar],*
- 4) Clear authority of Israel's God—*the commandment [mitzvah] of Yahweh is pure [bar],*
- 5) undefiled reverence for Israel's God—⁹ *the fear [yir'ah] of Yahweh is clean [tahor],*
- 6) Absolutely certain standards of Israel's God—*the judgments [mishpat] (decisions) of Yahweh (as Judge) are true [emeth],*
 - a) False religions are notorious for ever-changing expectations.
 - b) God is the God of truth, who cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18)

We should anticipate the activity of the Word of God—19:7b-9b

- These are things general revelation (19:1-6) can never do
- 1) Provides transformation—⁷ *restoring [shub] the soul [nephesh];*
 - 2) Provides skill for life—*making wise [chakam] the simple [pethi] (open);*
 - a) "The simpleton needs wisdom, which is the skill to live a life that is discipline and productive, bringing honor to the community, the family, and to God." (Ross, 1:479)
 - 3) Provides genuine satisfaction—⁸ *rejoicing [samach] the heart [leb];*
 - a) "Living out the plan of God revealed in the covenant will bring joy. A sense of sadness and insecurity come from the realization one is living in rebellion to God's law." (Ross, 1:480)
 - 4) Provides insight to living a pure life—*enlightening [or] the eyes [ayin];*
 - a) It gives people spiritual understanding and enables them to make right choices.
 - 5) Provides stability throughout life—⁹ *enduring [amad] forever;*
 - 6) Provides a perfect standard of right and wrong—*they are altogether righteous [tsadaq].*
 - a) False religions set forth false gods who were superhuman in their power and in their sinning. Only in the true decisions of God will people ever find genuine justice.

We should appreciate the attraction of the Word of God—19:10

- 1) See the Word of God as **exceedingly precious**—¹⁰ *They are more desirable [chamad] than gold [zahab], even much refined gold [paz]*
 - a) The most valuable commodity in the Near East.
- 2) See the Word of God as **exquisitely pleasant**—*and sweeter [mathoq] than honey [debash], and the drippings [nopheth] of the honeycomb [tsuph]*.
 - a) The sweetest substance in the Near East.

We should accept the assistance of the Word of God—19:11

- 1) Guidance concerning spiritual threats—*Moreover, Your servant [ebed] is warned [zahar] by them;*
 - a) The Bible not only tells us what we should not do, it warns of the consequences if we do disobey God's Word.
- 2) Reward for potential obedience—*in the keeping [shamar] of them there is great reward [eqeb]*.
 - a) Obedience to God's Word prevents us from ruining our lives and the lives of those around us. Only the sovereign God who reveals this truth knows what is best for His creatures.

Consider these NT passages concerning God's Word

- 1) Regarding **salvation**
 - a) Ephesians 1:13—*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*
 - b) Colossians 1:5—*because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,*
 - c) James 1:18—*Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*
- 2) Regarding **sanctification**
 - a) John 17:17—*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*
 - b) First Thessalonians 2:13—*For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*
 - c) 2nd Timothy 2:15—*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Take-home truth: True God of Truth, give us grace to genuinely hunger for Your Truth as it is revealed in the Word of Truth for Your glory and our good.