

REAL TALK

TRUTH

November 21/22, 2020

Psalm 19

Pastor Brian Rayburn

MESSAGE NOTES

Imagine yourself at 80 years of age. What are you like? What kind of person do you want to become in the glory years of your life. Don't imagine your resume but your eulogy. As our friend Mark Riggins says, "If you could attend your own funeral, what would people be thanking you for?"

The future you is probably humble but confident

The future you isn't uptight or self-absorbed, reactionary

You see yourself as someone who is compassionate, wise, kind, loving, AT PEACE

Everyone here got older this year, did you get better?

Every one of you got older, did you become elder?

Today's Psalm calls us up, into eldership, into being the kind of adults we needed when we were younger.

Turn to Psalm 19 — We are told this is a Psalm of David and he begins:

Verses 1– 6

CS Lewis called the 19th Psalm "The greatest Psalm in the Psalter and the greatest lyric in the world."

The Hebrew poem begins by extoling the glory of God, reflected in His creation's continual declaration.

V1 — in Hebrew cosmology, when they say heavens they do not mean "where the birds fly" they mean the entire universe. The entire universe keeps speaking a silent speech, pointing, echoing, the GLORY of God.

The Hebrew word for GLORY is KavOHd which comes from the very "to be heavy". In 1 Samuel, a man is KavOHd.

In Isaiah, a rock is KavOHd. In the Psalms, God's glory has great weight. To be heavy, by extension is to be valuable, important. If it has weight its important.

V3 — No SOUND is heard, their speech is the language of images. This is such a great distinction in roles.

CREATION declares in wordless speech the DOMINION of God! We, His people, retain a priestly role declaring the nearness and imminence. Each has its role. When you look at all He has created, you are to be reminded HE spoke this into existence. And we are to live and love in a way that also declares HE MADE you!

V5 – 6 — The writer is going to move from all of creation to the dominate force within it, the SUN. The sun is chosen because it was worshipped as the god of judgement by ALL of Israel's pagan neighbors.

All of our neighbors worship the sun, but I am telling you about the God who made and houses and commands the sun! The sun was representative of judgment and in the Hebrew there is a double-entendre. God is the one who will judge (sending out and commanding the sun) and look at verse 6 nothing will be deprived of the sun's warmth is, nothing will escape God's judgment and the writer will turn to verse 7 to the solution to that judgment.

V7 – 11 — (What do you need when you are in warmth (heat, judgment) all day, refreshment. The law of the Lord refreshes you!

Law — the writer will give us 6 synonyms for the same thing (law, decrees, precepts, commandment, fear, ordinances) all are synonyms for "instruction for right living."

Refresh — the Hebrew is literally "restores life." The law restores one to life.



The implication is also that what brings reprieve from judgment is the “revelation of God.” God we are under Your judgement, reveal Yourself and Your ways that we may escape it! ALSO, if we accept that something needs to be restored, we admit something is wrong, off.

You alone God can fix THIS! I need fixing and You are the one I have come to believe can restore this! “statutes” is a noun suggesting “changing one’s position.” IF YOU CAN’T BE CORRECTED YOU CAN’T EXPECT TO GROW!

V10 — the implication is that “right living” before God is more desirable than the BEST creation has to offer. “I desire nothing more than living rightly before you God!”

V12 – 14 — ****All revelation demands a response. Even in choosing to do nothing you have decided.** It brings to mind Isaiah 6 — after the prophet sees the angels flying and praising God his response is “I am a man of unclean lips!”

We hear creation speak. We hear God’s written and spoken revelation speak. And so WE speak an honest prayer of need. I need your help. I need to be forgiven. I need to be protected. I need you to accept me.

V12 — The rhetorical question is “no one!” The writers is specifically mentioning here “hidden, inadvertent, unintentional sins.” The Levitical law even had a prescribed sacrifice for these kind of sins. In Leviticus, these sins are described as those we have “rationalized.” Well I deserved it. Well they owed it to me. Well he did it first. Forgive here is a Hebrew word meaning “to empty out” its used of the married men no longer being able to serve in the military and the roles being emptied of them. EMPTY me of all these sins. AGAIN, the presumption is there are things that need to change in me!

V13 — “rule over” is literally “boil over.” Did you know for Paul and James the opposite of a wise person is a hot-headed person. What are the sins that cause you to “boil-over”. BEWARE!

V14 — words of my mouth — the things I say

Meditations of my heart — the things I think

MAY THEY PLEASE YOU — be acceptable to you.

Meditations is “stirring” May what STIRS me be pleasing to you! What excites me about myself and others. The things that impress me, be the things that matter to you!

Lord, in light of all this be my ROCK — or a sheltering rock. Protect me from all I do that is detrimental to my own well being.

Redeemer — the same word used for Boaz in Ruth. GOEL – be the one who buys me back from slavery and poverty. You the only one who can.

Take Home Points to Consider:

Christ is the trajectory, yesterday the baseline

The call to discipleship (follow Jesus) is a call to order our entire life in such a way that the love of Christ comes before all else: or career, our relationships, our hobbies and our entertainment. Before all else the love of Christ.

— Pete Scazzarro, *The Emotionally Healthy Leader*

Tomorrow, you will be the result of today’s decisions.

- Did you spend time reflecting on Christ and where your hidden sin is? BECAUSE YOU ARE WHAT YOU CONTEMPLATE!
- Did you work out
- Did you invest \$\$
- Did you spend time in relationships you will need tomorrow?

A better “you” will require discipline and guts



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take a moment and read Psalm 19 again. Do you notice the three distinct sections? (Hint: the first section ends in verse 6, the second section ends in verse 11)
- You can also think of Psalm 19 around the word “speech”. In the first section, who is speaking and what are they saying? What about in the second and third sections?
- What is the difference in the “types” of speech between how creation declares God’s glory and how we do?
- Brian mentioned that the Hebrew word for glory is also translated as “heavy” how does the word heavy communicate God’s glory?
- Brian mentioned that the obvious or natural response to God’s revelation is always an honest prayer of need. (i.e. “God help me! God I need you!”) How does continuing to study and learn about the character and nature of God continue to lead you to asking for help from Him?
- In what ways have you grown in the past year?
- In what ways do you STILL need to continue to grow?
- Describe an experience you have had with an older person who seemed to stop growing and was just content to stay as they were till death.