
Sermon Notes

February 2, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Perfect Word

Psalm 19

Do You Believe?

- ❖ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...* (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - do you believe **EVERYTHING** the Bible says?
 - do you believe that **EVERYTHING** you need in order to live life in a way that pleases God, is contained in the Bible?
- ❖ **OR...** do you believe the Bible is a master blueprint to which you must bring your own, custom finishing touches?

A Book Like No Other

- ❖ The Bible was written
 - over a 1600 year span by 40+ authors from every walk of life
 - in different places, at different times, during different moods
 - on 3 different continents in 3 different languages

- ❖ The Bible records one continuous story: the story of God's redemption of humanity
- ❖ The Bible addresses 100's of controversial subjects with harmony, continuity, and agreement

God's World and God's Word

- ❖ Psalm 19 is one of the Bible's most beautiful and powerful passages about itself
 - testifies that God is a communicating God
 - God wants us to know **AND** understand Him
- ❖ God communicates
 - in a general way through the world He has created
 - in a specific way through His Word
- ❖ In Psalm 19:1-6, David testifies to the way God reveals Himself through Creation
 - God's revelation
 - is continuous: day after day, night after night, week after week, year after year
 - points to God's glory
 - highlights God's invisible attributes, eternal power and His divine nature (Romans 1:20)
- ❖ But, all of this revelation is not enough... God has much more that He wants us to know and understand about Him
 - though nature points to God, nature is not God

- we need God's Word to accurately understand and interpret what we see
- ❖ In Psalm 19:7-11, David reveals how God reveals Himself more clearly and more specifically through His Word
- ❖ God's Word enriches and enhances our appreciation of God's world
 - the Bible helps us understand what we see in the world around us
 - some examples
 - Herbert Spencer: time, force, action, space, matter
 - the number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22), the earth is round (Isaiah 40:22), the earth is suspended in space (Job 26:7)
- ❖ David tells us God's Word
 - is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, everlasting, true, precious, sweet, and rewarding
 - gives us life, feeds and revives the soul
 - makes us wise, makes our hearts rejoice
 - gives light to our eyes, endures forever
 - warns us so we can keep away from danger of every kind
 - sin and its harmful effects
 - the lies and errors of this world

- ❖ The reliability of Scripture
 - believing the Bible is not an act of ignorance
 - multiple examples of prophecy fulfilled
 - Jesus' fulfillment of prophecy is validation of the inspiration, infallibility, authority, and inerrancy of God's living Word
- ❖ Psalm 19:12-14 show how God's Word leads us to deal with issues of the heart
- ❖ The Bible
 - points out hidden and presumptuous sins
- ❖ we READ other books, the BIBLE reads us!

<p>Personal Reflection</p>

1. Do you believe everything the Bible says? Do you believe the Bible contains everything you need to know in order to live life as God intends? If not, what fuels your doubts about the Bible's inerrancy, authority, and/or sufficiency?
2. Are there any ways in which you are inclined to trust in human cleverness and invention rather than God's Word?
3. Which of the Bible's testimonies about itself in Psalm 19 are most meaningful to you during this season of life?
4. How do the examples of fulfilled prophecy mentioned in this sermon enhance and enrich your appreciation of the reliability of Scripture?