
Sermon Notes

July 30, 2023

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Reliability of Scripture Psalm 19:7-14

Revelation

- ❖ How do we know that the writings of Scripture are true and trustworthy?
- ❖ We believe
 - God's Word communicates God's will, God's law and God's thoughts to God's people exactly as God chooses to communicate them
 - the Word of God cannot fail to accomplish the purposes for which God has designed and delivered it to His people
- ❖ Psalm 19 tells us that God reveals Himself
 - in a general sense through the wonders of creation
 - in a specific sense through His Word
 - the revelation of God in nature is extraordinary and magnificent, but it is limited
 - we need God's Word to accurately understand and **INTERPRET** what we see

Fixed Laws

- ❖ The physical world in which we live is governed by fixed laws and absolutes
- ❖ The same is true of the invisible, spiritual world in which we live
 - just as certain as the law of gravity or any of the laws of physics, you cannot violate the laws that govern the moral or spiritual dimensions of life without experiencing negative consequences
 - how can I be certain that statement is true?
 - where do I find out about these laws?
 - what measuring rod can I use in order to determine what is right and what is wrong?
 - the only faithfully reliable source for making conclusions about any of these matters is the Word of God
 - *the law of the LORD is perfect*
 - *the testimony of the LORD is sure*
 - *the precepts of the LORD are right*

The Living Word

- ❖ The Bible is a book like no other
 - written over a 1600 year span that covers 60 generations
 - 40+ authors from every walk of life
 - written on 3 continents in 3 different languages
 - addresses 100's of controversial subjects with harmony and continuity
- ❖ The Bible makes amazing statements about cosmology and the created universe (Isaiah 40:22, Job 26:7)

- Herbert Spencer: time, force, action, space and matter
- Genesis 1:1
- ❖ The Bible predicts things before they happen (Isaiah 44, Cyrus; 332 prophecies about God's Messiah)
 - Dr. Peter Stoner, probability of 1 person fulfilling 8 of those 332 prophecies = 1 in 10^{17}
 - probability of 1 person fulfilling 48 of the OT prophecies regarding Messiah = 1 in 10^{157}
 - Jesus didn't just fulfill 8 or 48 prophecies, Jesus fulfilled all of them
- ❖ Those who follow Christ do not confine their interest in the Bible's reliability to science or history
 - the Bible is a living book that has the dynamic ability to change lives
 - some books might change your thinking, but the Bible will change your **NATURE**

Psalm 19

- ❖ *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul*
 - **perfect** = whole, complete, comprehensive, without blemish
 - **reviving** = brings us back from death to life
- ❖ *Making wise the simple*
 - simple = open door (everything comes in and goes out)
 - God's Word provides discernment to know right from wrong, good from bad
- ❖ *The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart*

- by walking in a way that honors God, we grow in our ability to experience godly joy, happiness and blessing
- even in difficulty we find satisfaction that God is putting His faithfulness on display
- ❖ *The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes*
 - God's Word causes us to see things in this dark world in a clear, straightforward way
 - God's Word helps us maintain godly perspective in the face of death, disease, and devastation
- ❖ *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever*
 - what else lasts forever?
 - the Bible is never obsolete or out of date
- ❖ *The rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether*
 - lying is a way of life
 - truth comes from God
- ❖ God's Word warns us against sin and its harmful effects and protects us from the lies and errors of this world
- ❖ We must continually rely on God's Word to give us clean hands, hearts, mouths

Personal Reflection

1. Do you agree with the statement that the moral universe is governed by fixed laws? Why or why not?
2. How is God's Word working in your life?
3. In which of the ways described in Psalm 19:7-14 are you using God's Word to reshape your life? To which of them do you need to give more concerted attention?