

Psalm 19 (12-14) – Help Me See & Help Me Be

Intro: light and dust. Psalm 19 is a marvel and a masterpiece. It takes us from the stars to the study to our knees. In other words, it takes us from general revelation to special revelation to the application of revelation.

So, we start with Psalm 19:1-6 – Here we see what is called general revelation. This is the evidence of God as seen in the world around us. The creation reveals the Creator. And Romans 1:20 says – *For his invisible attributes, namely, his ternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.* Creation speaks – It tells you that there is a God, and that God wants to relate to you.

God is talking to you, to me, to everyone, everywhere. But general revelation can't save you, it only speaks of the one who can. People make the tragic, ultimate mistake when they stop at general revelation, and see it as the only and ultimate voice. What happens is that people make a god out of the creation, a false god that springs forth from their own imagination. As the Apostle Paul says in Romans 1:25 – *they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.*

General revelation is a window to something even more revealing. Creation points to a Creator. The universe itself gives evidence for the existence of God. But people act like the universe IS god. And you hear it a lot. People say things like “the universe is trying to tell me something.” Well, yes, it is. The universe is telling you that there is One True God, and you need to seek him in his Holy Word, which he has also revealed to us.

Now, King David, who wrote this psalm, he obviously knows this. But unlike the foolish people who don't really hear what the universe is saying, he does. And he says that yes, there is a God, it is obvious. Just look around and realize it. But David says don't stop there. Look up at the stars and know there is a God. Then look in his Word and know who he is. And who you are. And how you relate to God. And how he wants you to approach him.

The general revelation about God in the world is meant to lead you to the special revelation in his word. And that leads us to Psalm 19:7-11 – Here we see special revelation (the Word). You could say *specific* revelation.

- Vs.7a – Its teaching makes you turn around; repentance leads to revival. It transforms your life.
- 7b – Its witness makes you wise. It instills God’s thoughts.
- 8a – It leads you the right way. Its guidance gives you gladness.
- 8b – Its instruction gives insight. It brings clarity.
- Vs.9-10 – Its nature makes you hungry for more.
- 11 – Its nurture makes you holy. It gives you power for life.

Now, finally, we come to Psalm 19:12-14. King David has enough light to know that God is real and that God’s word is the key to understanding God and understanding his own life. But here is the thing. When you are seeking God, in his word, you see how you don’t match up. And the more you do match up, the more you see that there is even more where you don’t. The more light you have, the more dust you see. The more that you see, the more you see your need. And David knows that he needs to pray.

Think about how this Psalm is put together. First, David sees the majesty of God in creation. Then, David studies the law of God in his word. Now, David longs to gain that reward he speaks of in vs.11. He wants to know God better. He knows that the way to the reward is through the word. But he knows he has human limits. He knows he needs God’s help. He hears God speak in creation. He hears God speak in his word. So, David speaks to God in his prayer. “I want to know you and be close to you. And I don’t want my sin to get in the way of an increased intimacy with you.” Because sometimes, we need to repent of things we don’t even know yet.

You need to make sure you understand David’s aim. He isn’t looking to justify himself by keeping God’s law. He isn’t looking to bring glory to himself by being better than anyone else. He’s looking to be in closer communion with God. He wants to see the light, and to see the dust, and to know the power of forgiveness and redemption.

David isn't asking to be made better for the sake of his own glory. He is asking to better understand God's glory. And he doesn't want sinful things he may not understand to keep him from understanding God.

So, vs.12 starts with – *Who can discern his errors?* The Bible reveals our hearts, our problems, and it helps get our lives in order, our minds renewed, and our character transformed. And so, in consideration of the light of God found in the word of God, David, seeing the dust, and in reverence and humility, now asks God to use his word to probe his heart, and cleanse him.

David has the order right. John Calvin wrote, "Though the knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves are bound together by a mutual tie, due arrangement requires that we treat of the former in the first place and then descend to the latter." God is in the lead. And a solid understanding of who God is and then who we are in relationship to him is the proper order.

David says that we know there is a God because the creation reveals him to be so. And then we know more specifically who this God is by looking into his word. And looking into his word we understand more of ourselves, and so we understand more of our need, and that is why we need to humbly and reverently pray. This is the basis for faithful, believing, expecting prayer. David wants to change. For the right reasons.

People seem to think they know God, or know enough of God, without continually being humble and reverent. Hebrews 11:6 says – *without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.* This is just like the reward David speaks of in Psalm 19:11. And people want that reward. But they don't really know what that is. They've got the desire. They may even have the diligence. But they aren't aimed in the right direction. And you can't get to the right place going in the wrong direction. God's reward is a deepening relationship with him. He rewards those who diligently seek him through his word and by their prayers. It is a continual process. The more light you have, the more dust you see, the more prayer you need.

Scripture reading: Psalm 139:23-24

Sermon title: Help Me See & Help Me Be

Sermon text: Psalm 19

Bible

Change

Creation

Faith

Faithfulness

Humility

Prayer

Repentance

Reverence

Study

Overview: The more light you have, the more dust you see, the more prayer you need.