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LWFC Tuesday Morning Bible Study – December 2, 2025

The Believer's Response to God's Revelation

Psalm 19

According to the title, **David is the author of Psalm 19**. The theme of the Psalm is **God's revelation of Himself to humanity**. Verses 1-6 speak of God's revelation through nature and verses 7-11 speak of God's revelation through the Law. Verses 12-14 speak of what should be man's response to the revelation of God. The Psalm is a masterpiece of poetic literature. C.S. Lewis wrote, "*I take this [Psalm 19] to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.*"¹

We notice that King David was obviously moved by observing that the heavens, under the dominating influence of the sun, declare the splendor of God's handiwork. By comparison, he then described the dominating influence of the Law of the Lord which instructed him. Then he prayed for complete cleansing so that his life would be acceptable to God.²

Psalm 19 therefore, surveys both God's natural revelation and specific revelation, which prompts a response of self-examination. God's revelation is the theme of this psalm. He has revealed Himself to us in three ways: - Creation, Scripture, and Heart/Conscience

I. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH CREATION: ***Natural (General) Revelation of God's Glory (19:1–6; also, John 1:1-5 and Col. 1:15-18- Jesus Christ, God's Son, the AGENT OF CREATION)***

David is telling us that the world around and above us is the media by which God is speaking to humanity and speaking very forcefully. He is not whispering or hinting to people on this planet that He is the universe's glorious Creator. God's media declare and proclaim this message intelligibly, "*God's own hands made this world, and He is glorious*" (v.1).

David says that the heavens "*pour forth*" this message, and they display this knowledge. The words "*pour forth*" (v.3) speak of an artesian well, or a geyser that unfailingly sends a cascade of

¹ *The Abolition of Man, C.S. Lewis Works: Study Courses*, Bryan C. Hollon, Joel Woodruff, Joseph A. Kohm

² John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary – Old Testament* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1985), 807.

hot water shooting into the air, or a fresh spring bubbling forth, never running dry. They are flooding the universe day by day. Let us ask and answer two specific questions:

- **Where is this revelation? (19:1–2, 4–6): The heavens, including the sun, tell of God's glory.**

This psalm of David begins by referring to the heavens and the sky as proofs of God's creative work. The first verse uses Hebrew terms like those found in the first verses of Genesis. The **existence**, **structure**, and **details** of creation shout the reality of a Creator (**Psalm 19:1**).

David further states this revelation **continues both night and day**. The point is not merely that God's creation looks impressive. The function of the universe also announces the incredible design of God. A vivid example of this is how earth is affected by the sun. The sun rises in full strength, crosses the sky, and sets at the opposite end of the horizon. The sun's warmth and rays touch everything and everyone on earth (**Psalm 19:2–6**).

- **Who sees this revelation? (19:3–4): EVERY PERSON can see this “soundless sermon.”³**

Psalm 19:3–4 emphasizes the universal declaration of God's glory through creation. The verses state that the heavens and the skies communicate God's handiwork without using words, suggesting that nature itself is a testament to His existence and majesty. This implies that all people, regardless of language, ethnicity, or culture, can perceive God's greatness through the beauty and order of the universe.

Critical Message for Doubters and Unbelievers:

- ✓ Creation speaks of God's glory without verbal communication. Creation is God's **SILENT WITNESS**.
- ✓ The message of God's greatness is accessible to everyone. Creation is God's **UNIVERSAL MESSAGE**.

II. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH SCRIPTURE: ***Specific (Special) Revelation from God's (WORD) Law (19:7–11)***

³ H. L. Willmington, *The Outline Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ps 19:1–4.

The heart of Psalm 19 (verses 7–9) contains **six poetic statements**, each built from three carefully chosen elements: **an aspect** of God’s Word, **a feature** about that aspect, and the **beautiful consequence** of engaging deeply with Scripture in that way. Here is what that looks like visually:

	(Aspect)		(Feature)	(Consequence)
7	The law	of the Lord	is perfect ,	<i>restoring the soul</i>
7	The testimony	of the Lord	is sure ,	<i>making wise the simple</i>
8	The precepts	of the Lord	are right ,	<i>rejoicing the heart</i>
8	The commandment	of the Lord	is pure ,	<i>enlightening the eyes</i>
9	The fear	of the Lord	is clean ,	<i>enduring forever</i>
9	The judgements	of the Lord	are true ,	<i>righteous altogether⁴</i>

(v. 7a) - God’s Word is perfect — There is no error in the Bible, either in historical fact or in spiritual truth. Of course, the Bible records the lies of men and of Satan, but the total message of the Bible is that of truth. See Ps. 119:128 and 160. = ***The Bible Converts***—This is the same as “restores” in Ps. 23:3. The Word converts the sinner from his ways and restores the saint when he wanders. It refreshes and heals.

(v. 7b) – God’s Word is sure — God’s Word does not change; it is sure and steadfast, Psa. 119:89; Matt. 5:18. = ***The Bible Makes wise***— Read Ps. 119:97–104; Isa. 8:20; Jer. 8:9; Col. 1:9; James 1:5.

(v. 8a) – God’s Word is right — “Statutes” means “**precepts**, rules for daily living.” There are some rules that are wrong rules; BUT, God’s Word is right. Obeying the Word brings blessings to daily life. = ***The Bible Rejoices***—The spiritual believer finds joy in the Word (Jer. 15:16).

(v. 8b) – God’s Word is pure — See Psa. 12:6; 119:140; Prov. 30:5. Nothing in the Bible, rightly understood, could lead a person into sin (see James 1:13–15 – God can’t tempt us to sin). = ***The Bible Enlightens***— “The entrance (opening) of Your words gives light” (Ps. 119:130).

(v. 9a) – God’s Word is clean — The phrase “fear of the Lord” (v. 9) is another reference to “the Law,” since the Word of God produces a reverence for God (See Deut. 4:10; Ps. 111:10). = ***The***

⁴ Verse Notes, Copyright 2025, Jerry Towler

Bible Endures— Other books fade and are forgotten, but God’s Word remains. Many a hammer has been worn out on the anvil of God’s Word!

(v. 9b) – **God’s Word is true and righteous** — Psalm 19 describes God’s Word as being “*true*,” and the Hebrew concept of truth here is deeper than merely being “not false.” It is about reliability, faithfulness, and unwavering consistency; not merely accurate, but utterly dependable, trustworthy, and always leading toward the right direction, hence, God’s Word is “*righteous altogether*.” = the emphasis on the unified perfection of God’s Word. His words are not randomly scattered across Scripture; they form a coherent whole. God’s declarations about justice, compassion, holiness, and truth are not isolated commands; **together they embody one unified vision of a righteous life.**

III. **GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH OUR HEARTS –** **Mind, Conscience: Prayer for Cleansing and Discernment from God’s** **Revelation (19:12–14)**

● **Cleansing from Hidden (Secret) Faults (v.12)**

Verse 12 speaks of hidden faults, or those which we have a challenging time discerning. As we delve into God's word and allow it to dwell richly in us, God begins, through His word, to show us those things in our lives which we could in no other way see. These are **hidden faults**.

● **Cleansing from Presumptuous Sins (v.13a)**

Verse 13 says that God's word reveals to us, or keeps us back, from **presumptuous sins**, sins which we willfully commit and presume we can get away with them or presume that because we have judged them to be insignificant, they will somehow be insignificant in God's eyes. **NOT SO.**

● **Discernment as a Way of Life (vv.13b-14)**

The last part of verse **13** through verse **14** speak to the devotion of God's child. Here we find the attitude we should possess. As we allow it to speak to our hearts, to direct us, to discern and show us our sins, our hearts desire should be that we are kept from sin and that we are pleasing in God's sight.

“Shoe-Leather” Christianity

- **God’s Word serves to guide us in living a life that is pleasing to God. (v. 8).**

We should appreciate and embrace God’s Word as a guide to our living fulfilling and spiritually productive lives. When faced with decisions, God’s Word should be our compass, leading us to joy and peace (**Psalm 119:105-112**⁵).

- **God’s Word is not only valuable but also delightful. (v.10)**

King David insisted that the value of God’s word – ***His written revelation to man*** – was more valuable and desirable than **gold** itself. David wanted no amount of money or wealth to command his attention and affection more than the word of God. As a result, we should always approach Scripture with anticipation, allowing it to nourish our souls (**v.10**). In a time when distraction is abundant and the busy pace of life often drowns out God’s Word; this serves as a reminder of the importance of prioritizing our relationship with God and His Word over worldly pursuits. Investing time in reading, studying, meditating on, and sitting under Bible preaching, is crucial for our spiritual growth (**Psalm 1:1-3 – “his delight is in the law of the LORD”; 2 Tim. 2:15:14-19**).

- **God’s Word keeps our sinful nature in/under check. (v. 11).**

God’s commands serve both as a **warning** and a **promise**. Obeying God’s Word protects us from harm and leads to blessing (**James 1:21-27 – Be a DOER not just a HEARER**).

- **Joshua 1:8 - *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.***

⁵ George J. Zemek, *The Word of God in the Child of God - Exegetical, Theological, and Homiletical Reflections from the 119th Psalm*. (Mango, FL: Psalm 119 Commentary), 243.

- **John 8:31-32** - *Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*
- **John 14:21** - *Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”*
- **2 John 1:6** - *And this is love that we walk according to His commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.*
- **1 John 2:3-6** - *And by this we know that we have come to know Him if we keep His commandments. Whoever says “I know Him” but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.*
- **God’s Word stresses the importance of “self-awareness” in our spiritual lives (v.13)**

The psalmist pleads for divine intervention to prevent him from committing “**presumptuous sins**,” which are understood as willful transgressions against God's commandments. This request highlights the struggle between human frailty and the desire for holiness (cf. **Romans 7:13-25 – The Struggle of Our Two Natures**). This verse serves as an invitation for believers to engage in self-examination and prayer, asking for God's guidance to navigate the complexities of our moral choices in life.

- **God’s Word enables us to daily seek purity in our thoughts and our speech (v.14).**

Having prayed that God would keep him from sinful actions, David now prays that God would govern and sanctify his words and thoughts. This is necessary because sinning first surfaces in our **thoughts** and then proceeds on to our **expressions** (*mannerisms, facial expressions, and words*) before they break forth into **actions**. (**Psalms 139:23-24 – “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my thoughts....”**)