

FBC Service Sunday November 3, 2024, Psalm 19:1-6 God's Glory in Creation

1. The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. 2. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.

3. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard.

4. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. 5. It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

*6. The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat. **Psalm 19:1-6** (NLT)*

Our closing thought last Sunday, was how we are to strive in all we do, to do it for the glory of God.

This morning when we turn our attention to Psalm 19:1, we find ourselves invited to gaze upon a breathtaking spectacle. The psalmist paints a picture of the heavens, a vast canvas upon which God's glory is boldly displayed.

We see this awe-inspiring truth in Psalm 19:1 which proclaims, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*

This verse is a reminder that God's glory is not confined to the pages of Scripture or the walls of our sanctuary.

It's a psalm that invites us to reflect on the majesty and power of our God, who not only created all things but continues to sustain them.

As we gaze upward, we see not just the vastness of the universe, but the unmistakable signature of our Creator

Day after day, night after night, the heavens speak, their silent eloquence proclaiming the majesty and power of our Creator.

In every star that twinkles in the night sky, in the vibrant colours of dawn, and in the gentle whisper of the wind, God's glory is revealed.

It's etched in the mountains, in the intricate design of a snowflake, in the vibrant colours of a sunset, and the awe-inspiring grandeur of the cosmos.

These all-bear witness to the divine artistry of our God.

As we explore this passage today, may the Lord open our hearts to recognize how nature testifies to His greatness, urging us to respond in worship and reverence. Together as a community of faith, let's celebrate the incredible ways God's glory is manifest in our lives and in the world around us.

As we delve deeper into this majestic Scripture, we see how this revelation of God's glory should shape our hearts and minds. It should ignite a fire in our worship, deepen our faith, and inspire us to share the good news of God's love with the world.

O how I pray that the message of Psalm 19:1 will fill each of us with a renewed sense of wonder and awe at the glory of God.

Have you ever felt close to God through nature? Most of us have experienced this sense of God's presence through nature at one time or another, perhaps while viewing the mountains or walking through the woods or breathing in the salt spray of the ocean.

There is a revelation of God in creation, and that is what we want to talk about this morning.

David wrote about this revelation in Psalm 19.

Psalm 19 has three major sections.

1) God's creation shows his glory (1-6)

2) God's word reveals his grace (7-11)

3) God's revelation requires a humble and repentant response (12-14)

We will just be looking at verses 1-6 this morning, which focus on God's creation and how God's creation shows his glory.

So, how is it that we can know God through his creation?

I. First of all, God's creation declares His glory. (1-2)

He is and always has been perfect in love, perfect in power, perfect in wisdom, perfect in holiness. God has always been glorious.

But when God created the heavens and the earth, there was suddenly a new vehicle declaring the eternal glory of God. **So how does the creation declare God's glory?**

Psalm 19 says that the heavens speak forth the praises of God. Look at verse one of Psalm 19: *"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship."*

Although all of creation declares God's glory, the psalmist focuses on the heavens here, because the heavens are the most universally seen of all God's works.

You can certainly see God's glory reflected in the mountains and the oceans and the forests and in flowers and wildlife, but not everyone who lives on earth will ever see the ocean or a mountain or certain types of animals.

But they can see the sky. The heavens speak forth the praises of God to everyone on earth.

David describes the skies as *"the work of God's hands."*

When we speak about creation, it's not just anyone's creation. It's God's creation.

It's the work of His hands. Just as you can always see something of the artist in his or her creative works, so you can see something of God in His creative works.

The heavens speak forth the praises of God through their beauty, through their complexity, through their incredible balance and order, even through their sheer size.

All of these things speak forth the praises of the God who created them.

The heavens not only speak forth God's praises. They also reveal knowledge of God to man. Look at verse two of Psalm 19: *"Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known"*

The creation does not tell you everything you can know about God, but it does tell you some key things.

Paul says in Romans 1:20, *"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."*

God may be a spirit, He may be invisible to our eyes, but His marvelous creation reveals some of His invisible qualities to us.

The size and complexity of creation, especially as seen in the heavens containing the sun, the moon and the stars, **show us God's eternal power.**

The beauty and order and design of creation show us God's divine nature.

*****Albert Einstein was not a Christian believer, and yet as he looked at the wonders of the universe, he knew that there must be a God. When asked by an interviewer if he was an atheist, he replied, **no**, and explained his answer in this way.

"I'm not an atheist. The problem involved is too vast for our limited minds. We are in the position of a little child entering a huge library filled with books in many languages. The child knows someone must have written those books. It does not know how.

It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child dimly suspects a mysterious order in the arrangement of the books but doesn't know what it is.

That, it seems to me, is the attitude of even the most intelligent human being toward God.

We see the universe marvelously arranged and obeying certain laws but only dimly understand these laws." ("What Life Means to Einstein," Saturday Evening Post, October 26, 1929. Quoted in Walter Isaacson, Einstein: His Life and Universe; New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007, p. 386.)

Albert Einstein understood the eternal power and divine nature of God from what had been made. Why? Because the creation, and especially the heavens, reveal knowledge of God to man.

.....

But in these verses David says even more.

Not only is there a revelation of God in creation, but God's testimony to himself in creation is unmistakable.

First of all, it is a continuous testimony.

“The heavens are declaring the glory of God; the skies are proclaiming the work of his hands.” (Psalm 19:1) In other words, this is something they are always doing at all times.

See how David describes this testimony in verse two. He says this testimony takes place *“day after day, night after night.”*

Whether the sun is shining by day or the moon and the stars by night, whether you’re enjoying a beautiful calm peaceful day, or you’re in the midst of a heart-pounding thunderstorm, **there’s never any time of day or night when God’s creation is not declaring His glory.**

It’s a continuous testimony. Not only that, but it’s also an abundant testimony.

Look at the lavish words David uses to describe this testimony.

He says, *“The skies pour forth speech.”* This word translated **“pour forth”** is a word that means **“to bubble up and overflow,”** literally **“to gush forth”** in an uncontrolled and uncontrollable manner.

God was not stingy in creation. He has created colours and sounds and variety and wonders in creation everywhere you look.

Whether you look deep into the heavens with a high-power telescope or deep into the inner workings of a cell with a high-power microscope, whether you look up, down or all around, God’s fingerprints are all over creation. He has provided an abundant testimony to himself in creation.

Not only is it a continuous testimony and an abundant testimony, it’s also a universal testimony.

It’s a testimony that is available to everyone who has ever lived in any place at any time.

Look at verses 3-4: *“They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.”*

This is the universal aspect of God’s testimony that we were just talking about. **God’s creation speaks to all people everywhere.**

Think about it. There is no language barrier.

This revelation of God is understood by all. One of the biggest barriers missionaries face in bringing the gospel to other peoples is the language barrier.

For many missionaries, one of their first stops before actually going to the mission field is language school in order to learn the language of the people to whom they will minister.

Some missionaries go to places where no one knows the language and spend their first few years living with the people and learning how to speak their language.

New Tribes Missions and Wycliffe Bible Translators are two missions especially dedicated to learning these new languages and translating the Scriptures for these people into their own languages.

But the knowledge of God that comes from creation transcends individual languages. It’s like a giant universal translator.

There is no speech or language where the voice of the heavens cannot break through.

There is no language barrier – this testimony is understood by all.

There is no volume barrier – it is heard by all. Imagine if you were broadcasting the gospel into a country in the people's own language, but none of them had their radios or tv's turned on, or the signal was so faint they couldn't pick it up.

You would have broken the language barrier, but you would still have a volume barrier. **It doesn't do any good to speak the language if the people can't hear you.**

David says of the heavens, *"They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world."* (Psalm 19:3-4)

The knowledge of God in creation comes through loud and clear to everyone. You can choose to ignore it, but you can't escape it.

Going back to Romans 1:20: *"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."*

Notice that this testimony to God is clearly seen so that men are without excuse. No one will ever be able to stand before God and say that they did not receive the revelation of God that comes through creation.

The voice of creation speaks of God's glory loud and clear, and no one can miss hearing it. They can only refuse to believe what they hear. There is no volume barrier with this revelation – **it is heard by all.**

Finally, there is no distance barrier – it is given to all. Psalm 19:4: *"Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world."*

Going back to the radio analogy, imagine you're broadcasting the gospel using special universal translator technology.

Everyone who hears your transmission can understand it. Not only that, everywhere you broadcast, people have their radios on and turned up. They can hear what you're saying. That would be awesome.

But how far does your transmission go? What if your transmitter only broadcasts to a fifty-mile range, or a hundred-mile range? There would still be a lot of people missing out.

The testimony of creation has no distance barrier. It is offered to everyone.

The voice of creation goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

There's not a place you can go in all the earth where you're not confronted with God's testimony of himself in creation.

There is no distance barrier. This testimony is given to all.

David uses the example of the sun to emphasize this point in the next section, but for now I want to focus on a different question. You might wonder, “If God’s creation speaks to all people everywhere, then why do we need missionaries?”

If there are no language, volume or distance barriers with creation, then isn’t that a superior way to tell people about God than sending missionaries? **If God’s creation speaks to all people everywhere, isn’t that enough?”**

And the answer is, no, it’s not enough, because although creation provides us with some knowledge of God, it does not provide us with saving knowledge of God.

For example, a person can look at creation and understand that God exists, but knowing that God exists does not save a person.

A person can understand from creation that God is all-powerful, holy and wise, but knowing God’s attributes does not save either.

A person may even understand through his own conscience that he is a sinner, but even knowing that you are a sinner is not enough to save. **For that you need Christ.**

Let me share three C’s with you:

God gave us the testimony of Creation - to show that He exists and what He is like.

He gave us the testimony of Conscience - to show that we are sinners and in need of a Saviour.

But we need the testimony of Christ - in order to believe in God’s Son and be saved.

So the testimony of creation, wonderful as it is, is not enough by itself. We need to send missionaries with the gospel to share about Christ so that people can come to know this great and powerful God who has revealed Himself so clearly in creation.

So what should our response to all this be?

1. First of all, do not mistake nature for God. Some people feel that sense of God’s presence in nature and mistake it for God himself.

But God is not His creation. The creation should cause you to worship God the creator, **not His creation.**

2. Secondly, do not mistake nature for Christ. Some people feel that nature brings them closer to God. They speak of communing with God through nature.

But only Christ can bring you closer to God. There is only one mediator between God and man, and that is not nature, but Jesus Christ.

4. And then finally, the main action point, learn to know and enjoy God through His creation. Take time to read and enjoy the wonderful book of creation that the Lord has given us.

And as you read- see again in all its splendour – the glory of God.