

SHOUTS FROM THE HEART OF GOD

Monday, February 19

Reading: Psalm 19

Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands...7 The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

One of the reasons I enjoy going to Bible camp is getting back to nature. I don't particularly enjoy "roughing it", but I do like to go out at night and look at the stars. I also like to observe the natural surroundings - the lake, the trees, the "critters" the younger campers have fun chasing. When I consider the beauty and complexity of creation, I wonder how anyone could deny there is a God behind it all!

That is David's point at the beginning of Psalm 19. Creation is screaming the glory of God. Their message can be "heard" by the entire world. "Let heaven and nature sing!" We sometimes call this general revelation. Paul asserts that because of creation people are "without excuse" for denying the existence of God (Romans 1:18-20).

While creation proves the existence and power of God, we need more in order to know Him personally. Thus in the second half of this psalm, David introduces us to God's special revelation - His Word. David gives us several terms to prove the character and trustworthiness of God's Word, but today we will focus on what it does in our lives.

First, God's Word refreshes the soul. The word literally means to change or restore. While creation can inspire us and point us to the Creator, only God's Word can bring us into a relationship with Him.

Second, God's Word makes wise the simple. The word "simple" does not mean stupid; it means uninformed or naïve. That describes all of us when it comes to living for the Lord. We don't know how to do it! Scripture instructs us in God's ways and plan.

Third, God's Word rejoices the heart. In a world groaning under the curse of sin, God's Word brings us hope. Hope that there is a bright future. Hope that God will one day set all things right. Hope that God is with us despite the mess. This is cause for great joy.

Fourth, God's Word gives light to the eyes. In a dark world, the light of God's Word gives direction and guidance. Without this direct revelation from God we would be stumbling around in the darkness trying to determine what God wanted us to do.

David concludes with three basic instructions: (1) Love the Word (19:10). Its' study should be our daily delight, not a chore to be endured. (2) Listen to the Word (19:11-13). Obedience to God's Word will help us avoid sin and keep sin from controlling us. (3) Live the Word (19:14). This final prayer should be the prayer of all believers. Through His Word, every part of our lives should be pleasing to the Lord.

Through creation, His Word, and ultimately through the "Word made flesh" - Jesus Christ - God is shouting. The loving heart of God longs for our hearts to respond, repent, and find real life in Him.

THRU THE BIBLE Reading: Leviticus 13-15; Mark 8