

## Intro to the Psalms

3/12/18

### Psalm 19

I am so encouraged by what God is doing through the Psalms. I am hearing from a number of people who are reading and meditating on the Psalms. One wife said that she and her husband have struggled over the years with reading the Bible together. They have taken the challenge to read the Psalms aloud together and are thoroughly enjoying it.

I want to give one caution. I know that we talked about reading 5 Psalms a day and getting through the 150 Psalms each month. Some days that is difficult. The point is not how many Psalms we get through. The point is that we want to let the Psalms get through to us, so don't worry about not getting through 5 each day. It is not the task that matters. It is exposing our minds and hearts to what the Psalms have to say.

This week we took a peek at Psalm 19. The heading in my Bible says "The Law of the Lord is Perfect". That comes from verse 7. Perfect means complete or whole. That term seems to be an overarching term that all the others come from. God's Torah, or law, is complete. Consider each of the adjectives that describe that perfection. It is pure, right, clean, true, and righteous. What an amazing description. Where else can we go to find words like that?

Also consider the results of those words in our lives. They revive our souls, make us wise, cause our hearts to rejoice, and enlighten our eyes. Where else can we go to find counsel that has those results. As I contemplate that I wonder why so often I don't immerse myself more and more in what God has to say. I am reminded of what Paul told the Philippians in chapter 4, verse 8.

**"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."**

It is simply amazing what happens as we bathe our thinking in God's amazing Word. It really does center our lives. In the midst of whatever is going on around us, our lives really can and will be centered if we allow His Word to direct our thinking. I am actually finding my soul revived, my eyes opened, and my heart rejoicing even though "circumstances" don't necessarily change.

I am beginning to sense why David said God's Word is to be desired more than gold and they are sweeter than honey. I pray that those thoughts will continue to become more than just poetic words in all our thinking.

This next week we are going to take a look at Psalm 8. We are moving from the amazing Word of God to consider the amazing God of the Word. They really are inseparable. God's Word emulates from God Himself and is the very revelation of Himself for us and to us. Paul says the same thing to Timothy. **(2 Timothy 3:14-16)**

**But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom<sup>[a]</sup> you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

What a gift we have been offered in God's Word and a relationship with God Himself. I pray that as we continue to meditate on the character of God through His Word that we will be molded into His likeness a little more each day.

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

1. How does nature declare God's glory to you? Do you agree or disagree that it speaks loudly of God in words that cannot be ignored?
2. What is your favorite description (adjective) that is used about God's law in Psalm 19? Why?
3. What is the response of your head and heart as you reflect (meditate) on the Psalms?
4. As you consider Psalm 8 what is the impression that you have of God and of us, His creation?