

Wednesday

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## EYES WIDE OPEN & HEARTS ATTUNED



Psalm 19:1-4a, 7-8, 14

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. <sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. <sup>4</sup> Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.”*

*“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.  
The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.”*

*“May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”*

## POLITICAL LEADERS • MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL



**T**here is the constant temptation to close an eye to injustice or to look the other way when it comes to our nations freedoms. At the beginning of session I trust your enthusiasm to stand up for what you believe in is strong and your determination is unyielding as you serve those of us who voted you into office. Speaking for the majority of voters, we appreciate your service to the State of Missouri. Now in addition

to knowing the issues and what you as elected officials can positively impact those issues through legislation there is a larger concern at stake which I will ask with all sincerity in this way? **Is your Heart attuned to the Will of God?** Jeremiah 17:9, ***“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”***

The Hebrew term for the *heart* metaphorically refers to a person’s inner life—the will, thoughts, motivations, and emotions. The point is that if our hearts are not attuned to God and His revealed Word (Holy Scripture), then we can be easily deceived into believing that what is wrong is right and vice versa. The implications of such misguided thinking, decision making and eventual voting on a bill are colossal. **Your calling is difficult!**

**Read Psalm 19 / Our Words Matter (v.14)** – In Matthew 15:10-11 Jesus says, ***“Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”*** In reading Matthew 15:10-20 it is clear that Jesus emphasizes the priority of the heart over external matters, such as handwashing and ritual purity, and so v.11 stands out as quite the teaching point from Christ on the spirit of the Law. ➡ Everyone will defile themselves by what they say! Why? Because we are sinners by our inherited nature (Romans 5:12); redeemed by the Lamb (Eph. 1:7) if we have trusted Jesus as Savior (John 5:24), yet the fallen nature is still present (Romans 7:17ff).

➡ Words matter when it comes to communicating with the Lord or referring to the Lord as we speak with others and words matter regarding our communication with those on both sides of the isle. ➡ Now how can King David be so authentic in a prayer to the Lord at the close of Psalm 19 where his speech and the mediation of his heart is so critical to the Lord God being pleased with him?

**Established in God as Creator** – David had been a shepherd for years and was well accustomed to the day and night skies (19:1). Yahweh created the heavens and the sky, expanse, or firmament to reveal His glory. People in the ancient Near East often worshiped the sun, moon, and stars as gods—something specifically prohibited by the Law, rather than the Creator whose glory they reflect (Exodus 20:3). Sadly, through an unbelieving world this age-old sin of worshipping the creation instead of the Creator is raising its ugly head once again in our day. Noted: The apostle Paul warns about this grave sin in Rom. 1:18-23.

➡ **David reflects on what has been revealed in v.2** – When David states that the skies reveal knowledge, it means that creation reveals the knowledge of God’s supremacy – God is in control and man is at the mercy of God’s judged disorder from the fall! How often does a hurricane bring parts of our nation to a standstill? How often does a tornadic storm wreak havoc? Hey, a good snowstorm and we are at a standstill! **V.3** - Even though Creation does not speak audibly in words, its message (voice) goes out to the ends of the earth. The message from nature about the glory of God reaches ALL nations and is equally intelligible to them all. This is exactly what Paul teaches in Rom. 1:18, ***“people are without excuse”***.

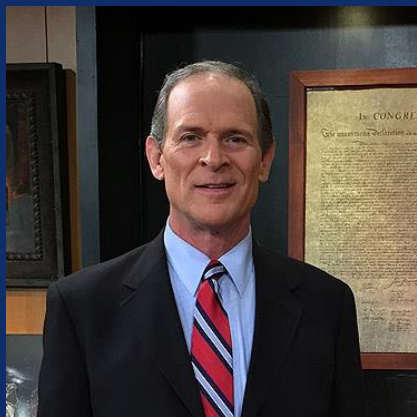
### 2022 POLITICAL LEADER Bible Study Notes - Sponsors

**HOUSE:** Rep. Ben Baker, Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins, Rep. Suzie Pollock, Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch, Rep. Adam Schnelting & Rep. Sara Walsh. **SENATE:** Sen. Bill Eigel & Sen. Mike Moon.



## Eyes Wide Open & Hearts Attuned

*William J. Federer*



“Religious revivals have a long history of preaching out of doors. The great London preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote: *“It would be very easy to prove that revivals of religion have usually been accompanied, if not caused, by a considerable amount of preaching out of doors, or in unusual places.”*

— *Revivals, Universities, and the Preaching of Jonathan Edwards* article published in the *Patriot Post* – Oct. 5, 2020.

*(Bill Federer will be speaking 10:00 am this Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at Ashland Baptist Church in Ashland, MO, 16 miles north on HWY 63 towards Columbia.)*

*Making disciples of  
Jesus Christ in the political  
arena throughout the world*

Capitol Ministries® provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, we have started ministries in over 40 U.S. State Capitols and dozens of foreign federal Capitols.



**Political Leaders of MO**



**Capitol Ministries®**

107 Brian Lane, Ashland, MO 65010  
660-238-4341 cell/text  
Matt.Goodsell@CapMin.org  
www.CapMin.org/missouri

The universal revelation of God’s power and deity in creation means that no one can claim ignorance for failing to honor God as God (**Rom. 1:21–23**). *God’s wrath is therefore just!* ☞ David reflects on God as Creator and it influences his life! Genesis 1:1, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** ☞ *Does reflecting on God as Creator affect your life?* Indeed **v.14** arises from a reflection from knowing God as Creator. To adhere to the words of **verse 14**, we must acknowledge God as Creator and Sovereign Lord for knowing God as Creator is the pivotal foundation that promotes right speech and a devoted heart to God.

Jer. 9:24a says, **“But let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me.”** My bold challenge to all Christian Political leaders and all office staff at the Missouri Capitol building this year is to be verbally active in informing people that you indeed **KNOW GOD** through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**The Perfect Law of God** – The second section of *Psalm 19:7-11* reveals the beauty and value of God’s law. The *Big Idea* of this Psalm as a whole emphasizes that God, the Supreme Creator, reveals His Perfect Law to His people (*Exodus 20:1-17*). David can reflect on the perfect essence of the Law of the Lord because it is a reflection of the Law Creator, who chooses to reveal His perfect law to His people. The Moral Law reflects the purity and holiness of Yahweh; a moral law that ALL have broken except Jesus Christ Himself (*1 Peter 1:18-19*). King David writes that the Law has precepts/instructions which are designed for God’s people to live by to their own benefit (*v.8*). Further, the adherence to these instructions will give joy to the “heart”. Nothing ever ends well when we disobey God’s instructions and His commands and do our own thing! Hence, the N.T. teaching on the Word of God is so clear to the hungry disciple. *2 Tim 3:16*, **“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”** ☞ I encourage daily Bible reading this year so that you can be the best you can be in office.

**Illumination** – The second part of *v. 8* is an illumination for our soul; **“The commands of the Lord are radiant (PURE), giving light to the eyes.”** Where there is light, there is truth. Where there is darkness, there will be deception. The Law reflects the Law Creator who is Light and Truth. *1 John 1:6*, **“If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.”** Light and Truth are used interchangeably. Jesus is the **“Light of the World”** (*John 8:12*) and also the **“Truth”** (*John 14:6*). For all Christians to have the ability to please God in Word and in the meditations of their heart, then a growing knowledge of the Scriptures and following obedience is essential. This will entail systematic reading of the Scriptures over the course of one’s life.

☞ The Will of God is intimately intertwined with the Word of God.

**His Rock and Redeemer** – I close with David’s unwavering belief that God is his Rock and Redeemer (*v.14*). The Hebrew word for Rock “*tsur*”, highlights the stability and protection Yahweh provides. **This year rest on the ROCK Jesus!** (*1 Peter 2:4, Mark 12:10, Matthew 7:24-27*). “Redeemer” illustrates Yahweh’s protection and care as He defends and delivers His people. Know Him as Redeemer, “who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (*Titus 2:14*)

**FINAL NOTE:** During the 2022 session I will be available at the Capitol building every Wednesday. If you require prayer or spiritual counsel or if you would like to discuss any Bible study lessons that I distribute, then please reach out to me on 660.238.4341. This will be my 20<sup>th</sup> year of pastoral ministry in church life and my 9<sup>th</sup> year as Pastor of Ashland Baptist Church, in addition to my 4<sup>th</sup> year as Capitol Ministries Director for MO.