

The Value of the Word

Psalm 19:1-11

“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.”
(Psalm 19:1–11, NKJV)

Until the advent of Jesus Christ, God has revealed Himself perfectly through His creation and His word. In reality, before any words or Law or historical account of God had been written the fulness of God’s glory was most fully revealed in nature. The stars in the sky – the sun in its regular coming and going is visible to every creature on the planet. The vastness of the heavens, the dependable rising and setting of the sun; the warmth produced by that ball of fire – not too much heat nor too little; like all the other complexities of God’s creation point plainly to His forethought and design. Those complexities work together to draw the awe of men to the awesomeness of God, reveal His power and evoke from us the worship and glory due Him. But, the creation only reveals the fact that there is a grand designer – a God who is most powerful in the heavens; the creation does not reveal to you and I the will and instruction of God. While we marvel at the heavens and glorify Him who made them only the specific revelation of God revives and instructs the heart of men.

God’s Law – the Specific Revelation of God in the OT...

This morning we’ve been talking about the importance of getting the scriptures into the hands of every person on earth; King David, in this Psalm identifies a number of qualities which make the Bible a priceless resource not to be ignored but to be read, contemplated (or meditated upon) and obeyed.

First, we read ***“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.”*** That is – the Bible, as the revelation of the Lord’s thoughts, mind and will is perfect. As it has been given it is infallible – some may have interpreted it poorly or made it say what it does not but as God gave it, the word is entirely God breathed [2 Tim. 3:16-17]: ***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*** The word of God is not only helpful in learning the teachings of the Lord, but also convicts and corrects the reader. As we read it in Psalm 19:7, the word “converts” the soul; that means it turns back or restore the one who has strayed from God. Because the ***“testimony of the Lord is sure”*** or changeless it makes the one open to it – wise. ***“The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;”*** in other words, *obeying the word of the Lord brings blessing into daily life.*

I think that this is what the Apostle Paul was getting at in [2 Tim. 1:12] when he said, ***“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him against that Day.”***

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Paul knew the Lord, saw the Lord, heard the Lord, was directly commissioned by the Lord, received power from the Lord, obeyed the Lord, stood firmly for the Lord and died for the Lord but it was in daily obeying the Lord that Paul was blessed and grew wiser. In my mind one of the greatest blessings one can experience is to know the Lord more fully – Paul used a word which meant to know the Lord in fullness.

David also declared in (Psalm 19:8) that ***“the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”*** As one man said, *“rightly understood, nothing in the Bible could lead a person to sin”* but rather to turn from sin. The Bible opens our eyes to the Lord’s perfection and our sinfulness and that revelation mixed with Godly fear leads to wisdom (see Psalm 111:10) and repentance (see v. 9a). The word of God endures forever; in the gospels, Jesus said (Matt. 24:35; Luke 13:31 and Mark 21:33) ***“Heaven and earth will pass away but My words shall not pass away.”*** It not only endures, it enriches the reader in imperishable wealth (v.10), it satisfies and nourishes the soul as honey does the body (v.10); it warns us of the deadly nature and reward of unrepented sin (Romans 3:23) – it tells us to resist the devil, flee temptation, hate sin and avoid all appearances of evil and leads the obedient soul (v.11) to ***“great reward.”*** The reward does not come for keeping the words – you cannot purchase or obey your way into the kingdom of heaven but you are rewarded IN keeping the words of God – we are blessed in the doing of God’s word – we are blessed when we heed what the Bible says about us, confessing and repenting of it; when we do what it says and trust in the Lord we are blessed at first with eternal life; and later, as we continue with the Lord, blessed also with peace, with joy, with a clear conscience, with a deepening fellowship and relationship with the Lord, with assurance of faith and with answered prayer to name a few of those blessing which we enjoy in keeping the word.

Jesus Christ – the Specific Revelation of God in the NT...

The writer of the Book of Hebrews wrote:

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” [Hebrews 1:1–3]

For three and a half years there was no greater revelation of God among men than the person of Jesus Christ. He revealed the Father’s heart to mankind and ushered in priceless grace.

Creation revealed a glimpse of God’s glory, in the law and the prophets we hear bits and pieces about God from various sources over an extended period of time but in Christ we have the perfect revelation of God. Jesus is the last word from God – the complete revelation of God. On man wrote, ***“Through Christ, we understand where everything came from, where it is going, what keeps it going, and why it is here.”***^{vi}

But now Jesus is in heaven, ***“seated at the right hand of God”*** (v.3) and ***“making intercession of each of us*** [Romans 8:34]” and we are left with two things – the word of God in the finished work of the Bible and the person of the Holy Spirit who illuminates the scriptures (John 16:13; 14:26) so that we may understand them.

The Bible and the Spirit of God reveal the will of God, instruct the hearts of men, convicts us of sin, assures us of salvation, comforts us in our grief, challenges us in our spiritual growth and condemns the unrepentant. The warning of [Hebrews 12:25] is clear:

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“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven.”

Let me conclude with a question for you – *“Is your Bible all to you that God wants it to be?”*

What does the Lord want His word to be to you?

1. A lamp by which you see the world and the way God wants you to go in it.
 - a. [Psalm 119:105] ***“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”***
 - b. [Proverbs 6:23] ***“For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,”***
2. And a wellspring: [Proverbs 16:22] ***“Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly.”*** [Psalm 119:9] ***“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.”***

God’s Word – His law, His precepts, His commandments, His statutes, His decrees, His testimony all of which we find in the Bible are to be:

1. Studied - ***“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*** (2 Timothy 2:15, NKJV) The study of God’s word erupts from a desire to know Him better; to know His will and His ways.
2. Believed –
 - a. [Acts 16:31]: ***“So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”***
 - b. [John 3:16]: ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”***
 - c. [John 2:20-22]: ***“Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.”***
 - d. [John 4:49-51]: ***“The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!” Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, “Your son lives!”***
 - e. [Romans 10:9-11]: ***“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”***
3. Obeyed –
 - a. [John 8:51]: ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”***
 - b. [John 14:23]: ***“Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”***
 - c. [John 14:21]: ***“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”***

We study to know more about the Lord and His ways but in obeying it we get to Him.

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4. Taught – [Deut. 6:6-9]: “***And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.***”
5. Treasured – [Psalm 119:11] “***Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.***”
6. Considered – [Psalm 1:1-2]: “***Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.***”

There are many more things that the Lord wants His word to be to each of us but this list is a good start. Do you study it? Earlier I mentioned the exceptional way in which Paul knew “***him whom he had believed,***” to know the Lord as Paul did requires a sort of hunger – a ravenous hunger; a hunger that cannot be satisfied and which continues to drive the hungry soul to dig deeper into the Word of God, to obey what the Lord says and to cry out more and more to the Lord in prayer. Do you seek the Lord like that? He said in [Jeremiah 29:13] “You will seek me and find me when you search for Me with all your heart;” that doesn’t just apply to the beginning of the relationship with the Lord but to the day to day as well. Have you believed the word? Which part? All of it – some of it; the part you agree with? We believe the word but some still approve of the murder of babies in the womb. We believe the word but more and more are approving of lifestyle choices which go against what we say we believe. Do we believe it as the inspired God breathed instruction that it is or not? Do we obey it? We’d be lying if we said we consistently did what the Lord said but are you striving to obey – am I? Studying the word without obeying it is not only unwise but it is unproductive. How many of us long to experience a deepening relationship with Jesus? Such a relationship is not merely gained in knowing the facts about Him or in knowing chapter and verse – such a relationship is gained by obeying Him and His word. Are we teaching it to our children? Listen the world has your children and grandchildren a lot longer every day that you do and they are wasting no time in leading them to pursue ungodliness in all its forms from their first day in school – they are wasting no time to turn them from God. You must teach the word to your children and grandchildren with every opportunity presented to you. To consider or meditate on the word is simply to feed on it through the day; of course, it requires that we begin our day with some time in God’s word and in prayer.

I skipped one; do you treasure the word. That’s really the focus of all of this – what value have you placed on the word of God? Have you hidden it in your heart to draw upon as needed either by yourself or by someone else in need? Is it better to you that the fine things we can own or consume? It was by this word that you came to learn of Jesus. It was by this word that you came to know what He did for you and because of your sins. It was this word that you believed when you first trusted in Jesus. It is a priceless treasure of unattainable depth – it is a love letter to the unlovable and a message of grace to the undeserving sinner.

It was not given just to start us on our way to the kingdom it was given along with the Spirit of God to accompany and guide us all the way home.

ⁱ Wiersbe, W. W. (1991). [*With the Word Bible Commentary*](#) (Heb 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.