

The God of Wonders

Introduction. C.S. Lewis once called Psalm 19 “the greatest poem in the Psalms and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.” Its message is clear and unmistakable, and as evident as the sun, moon, and stars: God is.

This beautiful, moving psalm makes three wonderful points that completely explain the character of God’s revelation to us.

I. God Is Revealed in the World Around Us (vv. 1-6)

- A. Creation has been called “a wordless book” that everyone can read because it needs no translation. Everyday observation reveals and confirms the obvious fact that complex, functional design demands a designer.
 - 1. Paintings demand painters. Architecture demands architects.
 - 2. What about the Universe? Can it be described accurately as “designed”? If so, what could such design imply about its origin?
- B. Consider three brief examples:
 - 1. Gravity, electromagnetism, and the strong and weak nuclear forces operate in a remarkably ordered balance. The life-permitting character of these laws points beyond chance toward a wise Lawgiver.
 - 2. Earth has liquid water, a protective atmosphere, a stable orbit, an appropriate relationship to the sun and moon, and conditions that allow life to exist. These features are often called the “Goldilocks” conditions of our planet.
 - 3. DNA stores and transmits biological instructions, while cells contain tightly coordinated molecular systems that build proteins, repair damage, and reproduce. This specified, functional information is evidence of a designing mind rather than an unguided process.
- C. The truth is, atheists frequently testify to the “design” in nature. But how can you get design without purpose, intelligence, and deliberate planning? According to Paul Davies: “Our universe seems ‘just right’ for life. It looks as if ... a super-intellect has been monkeying with physics.”
- D. Indeed, both honest observation and rational thought should lead every truth-seeking individual to the same conclusion that the Bible writers came to so long ago (Isaiah 6:3; 40:26; Hebrews 3:4).

II. God Is Revealed in the Word Before Us (vv. 7-11)

- A. God hasn’t left us in doubt regarding His will. He’s revealed His message to mankind in the written Word. The psalmist uses six different names and attributes for God’s Word.
 - 1. “The law of the Lord...” It’s perfect, complete, and all sufficient. We have all that we need that “pertains to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3).
 - 2. “The testimony of the Lord...” It’s sure, credible, and trustworthy. It’ll fill you with wisdom.
 - 3. “The statutes of the Lord...” They’re right. They’ll guide us in the way of righteousness, keep us from wrongdoing, and fill our hearts with joy.

4. "The commandment of the Lord..." They're pure, undefiled, and holy. They'll open our spiritual eyes, light the way, and dispel the darkness of sin.
 5. "The fear of the Lord..." It's clean. This speaks to a reverence and respect for God's Word. Human fears can be disconcerting and distressing, but the fear of the Lord is good, God-centered, and has eternal rewards.
 6. "The judgments of the Lord..." They're true, righteous, and reliable. They keep us on the right track, and offer a solid rock on which to build our lives.
- B. This section finishes by saying that we're warned by the Word of our duty, our danger, and our remedy. "Servant" bears out the willingness of the psalmist in doing God's will. It applies to one who by appointment, office, or choice commits himself to doing someone else's will.

III. God Is Revealed in the Witness Within Us (vv. 12-14)

- A. God's Word with all its perfections penetrates and examines a person (Hebrews 4:11-13). The godly stand, therefore, before their Creator and Redeemer, knowing that they may have "hidden faults" or "errors."
1. The psalmist is concerned about these faults because he aims to live "blameless" before God. Therefore he asks for forgiveness and an ability to express humility and contrition.
 2. "Willful sins" are those often attributed to the "arrogant," who have no regard for God. "The great transgression" could be idolatry, adultery, or any other sin against the morality of God.
 3. David prays that such willful sins won't take control of his life; experience shows that repeated deliberate sins can and do end up controlling people. God warned Cain to "rule over" sin after Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4:7).
- B. The heavens "declare," "proclaim," "pour forth," and "display" without the benefit of human speech; yet they speak clearly of the glory, power, and wisdom of God. The Lord has revealed His Word in speech and written forms accessible to people. In turn the psalmist, as a redeemed creature of God, prays that his expressed and unspoken words may "be acceptable" to God, which is the language of sacrifice (cp. Leviticus 22:20); thus the request is that this song be a suitable act of worship before God, like a sacrifice.

Conclusion. As we see God's greatness in nature and learn of God's will from the Bible, our hearts should be touched, our minds enlightened, and our spirits stirred to live as transformed people. The Gentile world was said "to be without excuse" for rejecting God when they could see Him in creation (Romans 1:20). How much more are we without excuse when we have God's completed revelation? Reflect on David's message. Feel David's passion. Use this chance to change yourself today.

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