

Psalms Chapter 19 Commentary
To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

Ps 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

How can we describe the glory of God? I once heard a story, about a man who was conversing with an emperor, telling him about God and Christ. The emperor asked the man to describe God's glory to him. The man was divinely led to explain to the emperor that God's glory was displayed in the earth and its creation as described here in ***Psalms 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."*** He asked the emperor to take a long hard look at all things of the earth. Then he asked him to stare directly at the sun, because just as the earth was God's creation, so were the heavens. The emperor knew that if he stared at the sun he would be blinded, because its brightness was too much for the eye to behold. He told the man this, and the man then explained: this is the nature of the glory of God. It is too much for the eye of man to behold, and it is blinding to the natural eye.

Ps 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." What is meant by the words "***the heavens***" and "***the firmament***?" It is a declaration of everything from the surface of the earth outward as we see in ***Ge 1:8; ¶ And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. 9 ¶ And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.***" The firmament includes the air we breathe, the skies, the sun, the moon, the stars, and everything we can behold above the earth's surface. Wherefore, every breathe we take is speaking to us of the Creator and gives us knowledge of the glory of God.

The word "***declare***" means ***declare, shew forth, speak, talk, or tell.*** Thinking about these definitions, we understand that there is no person in the world, who is alive and breathing, who can say they have never known of the glory of God. Because no person can live on earth without seeing the heavens, the firmament. How do the heavens declare the glory of God? They speak to every person of the power, strength, and the magnificence, of the God who created them, which displays the glory of God.

Ge 1:1 ¶ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. What was the first thing that God created? The heaven, then the earth, and then light. Wherefore, the heavens declare the glory of God.

Ge 1:2 "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. On display at all times, over all the earth where people exist, is the glory of God. If you can breathe, have life, you have knowledge of the Creator God.

Ge 1:3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. This very thought expresses to us how God is glorious in creation. It demonstrates that God is of such magnitude and power, that He speaks to every person in existence, no matter their language.

We look at the heavens, the firmament, and understand that God is on display to everyone, all the time, whether it is day or night. As day and night continuously revolve on the face of the earth, so the glory of God is always on display. In the daytime we mostly focus upon the earthly firmament, but the heavenly firmament is always in the background.

4 "Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."

David reminds us that the warmth of the sun touches all the earth and reaches to the uttermost parts of the heavens. He acknowledges that God set a tabernacle, a home, in the firmament. As the sun rises each day it is a new declaration of the glory and handiwork of God.

What does this have to do with us today as Children of God. Just as in the beginning when God created light and separated the light and darkness, so it is with the Children of God. Just as the sun rises every morning over all the world, so the power of Christ Jesus is manifested, over all the world, to every child of God. We understand that the light of Christ is "***the light of the world.***" It does not matter what language you speak, the power of Christ in us, after the new birth, shines forth the divine light of Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, in every child of God.

Remember on the day of Pentecost in ***Ac 2:6-11; ¶ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 ¶ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. 12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?"***

This reminds us of our text in ***Ps 19:3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*** Just as the sun touches all the world, so the Son of God speaks to every child of God in their own language.

Just as God created light and separated it from darkness, prophetically, the glory of God, Christ in us, separates the saved from the unsaved. This is why God's children understand ***Ps 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."***

7 ¶ "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."

"***The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:***" Law means *precept or statute*, or in easy-to-understand words, if God says do something, then do it: if God says don't do something, then don't do it. Perfect means *entire, integrity, truth, without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sound, without spot, undefiled, or whole.*

Let's let God's word of truth demonstrate the meaning of this verse. The first commandment that God gave to mankind was in the Garden of Eden, which Adam disobeyed and brought upon all mankind the punishment of death for sin, which left mankind in need of a way of salvation, in "***converting the soul:***". How did this come about? Satan, the serpent, came to Eve and gave her reason to doubt the veracity of God's word. This stirred in her heart what would become idolatry, for she placed her desire to be like God, above obedience to the commandment of God.

Adam, likewise, took the bait, and thus the fall of all humankind. Since all persons on earth, except for Jesus, came from this couple after their fall in sin, and after being driven out of the Garden, and out of communion with God, and all mankind has inherited that same nature to sin that caused the fall. What do you mean? Until a person is born again, they do not believe the word of God is perfect. Just as Eve believed she would become like God, and have freedom to do as she wished, so all mankind if born with this same belief. If you don't believe that is true, just look around at the proliferation of sin in the world. Look at how many different bibles there are, which are not the true Word of God. All of this comes about through the devil perverting the Word of Truth.

Consider, before the fall in sin, were not Adam and Eve in the perfect situation? Do you not see that the New Testament Church is like the Garden of Eden, and the devil is still trying to get you to doubt the Truth of the Word of God?

Now, fast forward to the giving of the law commandments. ***Commandment 1: Ex 20:1-6; 1 ¶ "And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out***

of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

To demonstrate that "**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:**" consider this commandment. If you are solely and wholly devoted to God, you will not turn from God to idolatry. However, since we inherited the fallen in sin nature of Adam, we need a way of salvation to bring us out of the condemnation to the pits of eternal hellfire and damnation.

Now, consider how you came to understand this commandment. God had to reveal himself to you in the new birth, and indwell you with the Holy Ghost, so that you could understand this commandment. How did this way of salvation come to pass? It came to pass when Jesus was sent to earth in a prepared body to redeem all of God's people from their lost condition. Jesus did, what we are unable to do in and of our own wills. He completely followed this commandment of God, and all the rest, and thus was the perfect sacrifice with a body of flesh to reconnect the fellowship with God for God's people, which was broken in the disobedience of Adam.

Understand, if you have not been converted and filled with the Holy Ghost, you cannot comprehend the law of God. You cannot understand the necessity for obedience to it, and the implications of not obeying the commandments of God.

Next, did you notice in the first commandment "**visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;**" Yes, I know I just preached on this last Sunday, however, this demonstrates that "**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:**" God commands us in the Old and New Testaments to teach our children the word of God. Failure to do so is first a sin on the parents, and second a sin upon the children. Why? Children learn what they are taught. If we don't teach them the true Word of God, and to never follow the path of idolatry, then our iniquity is passed down to them. What do they do when they are raising their children? The same things they were taught by their parents. And so, the iniquity of the parents keeps being passed from generation to generation, without the intervention of God through his abundant mercy.

When children are taught the whole word of God, and especially to not live a life of idolatry, there is great belief that God will convert our children from death to life in Christ and claim them as his own.

"**the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**" What is the testimony of the Lord? We are told in *Joh 5:39* "**Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**" Thus, the testimony of the Lord is the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the written word of God, the King James bible.

Testimony means **concrete witness**. The word sure means **properly, to build up or support; to foster as a parent or to nurse, to render firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent, to be morally true or certain, to turn to the right.** Thus, we understand: if we instruct ourselves and our children, to trust in nothing but the One True and Living God, and His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, they will have a concrete witness of the truth. Thus, as they, and we, read and study God's word, the King James bible, they will be built up and supported. They will be fostered, as by a foster parent, by the Holy Spirit power residing in them, which will render them to be faithful and to stand firm upon the solid rock, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and King. Their trust in the testimony of Jesus Christ will be permanently placed in their hearts and written in their minds. Thus, they will live morally, lives true to God, and will be turned in the right direction, which is the way of salvation by the grace of God provided by our Saviour and King, Jesus Christ.

"**making wise the simple.**" Who are the simple? The simple are those who we see in *Eph 4:14; 11* "**And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." The simple have not been taught "**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**" and they follow the will of their fleshly desires.

Who then are the wise? We are told, in several places in scripture, the fact that the wise are those that believe and trust in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, seen in **Ps 111:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever."** This text tells us "**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**"

Pr 1:7 ¶ "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

This text gives us the definition of both the wise and the simple.

Pr 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Again, we are told "**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**"

Wherefore, in summation we declare unto you: there is only one way to get to heaven and immortal glory, and that is by the "**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**" which is Jesus the Christ. Our Saviour and King has passed through the valley of "**the valley of the shadow of death**" and emerged victorious over death, hell, and the grave, and has given us this inheritance, as any good foster parent would do, by grafting in the Gentiles into the New Testament Church. Jesus is now seated on the throne of God, and Jesus is preparing a place to receive all of God's children, into the eternal rest from our inherited nature of sin. This rest will be manifested in the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the change of those who are alive and remain at his second coming. It will be manifested in the resurrected bodies which do not have the fallen in sin nature but are completely filled with the new nature of Jesus Christ. Our resurrected and changed bodies will be like the resurrected Jesus, and we shall live with him forever in the new heaven and new earth. Hallelujah! Praise, and glory, to Jesus Christ! Amen!

8 "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Right means **to be straight, to make right, pleasant, or prosperous.** Certainly, when we are born again, we come to understand that everything that God has commanded his people to do is for their good and to his glory. They therefore are "**rejoicing the heart:**" In other words: it makes the child of God happy to obey the commandments of God as we see in the New Testament:

- **Joh 13:17 "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."** Jesus spake these words to his disciples after the Lord's Supper was instituted and he had washed their feet. This speaks to us of the need to profess discipleship to Jesus when we are born again, so that we may be happy to partake of the Lord's Supper.

"the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." As God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, are all completely pure and without sin, so their words are pure. These pure words of God give enlightenment to the child of God, and the New Testament Church.

9 "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."

How is fear of the Lord clean? When we are born again and indwelt with the Holy Spirit, we are clean eternally, because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross. In the new birth, we are given eternal life, and eternal life is forever.

We find many verses about "**The fear of the LORD**" in scripture, such as:

- **Job 28:28 "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."** If we fear the Lord, we will willingly obey his voice of commandment, and we shall abhor evil.

- **Pr 1:7 ¶ "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."** We are given the distinction between those who fear the Lord and those who are fools, which is the same distinction between those who are children of God and those who are not.

"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." Can you imagine anything that is sweeter than walking in the fear of the LORD, and being comforted by the Holy Ghost, seeing the revelation of our King and Saviour Jesus Christ from the bible, and seeing the New Testament church growing? What a wonderful blessing of God to his people.

This verse demonstrates what we read in **Mt 6:19-21; 19 ¶ "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."** It is a warning to us to not turn from wholly serving God to idolatry.

11 "Moreover, by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

What is by them? The words from verses 8-10: **8 "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."** If we keep the statutes of God, there is great reward to be had here in time. We get to enjoy the blessing of God here and now.

12 "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults."

"Who can understand his errors?" I think we can get the perspective of this question from **Le 4:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them:"** Sometimes we commit sins that we do not recognize to be sins, except they are brought to our attention.

David prays to God to cleanse him from secret faults. Secret faults are sins, which we know we have committed, but we are trying to hide them, as David did in his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah. It is a reminder to us that though we may hide our sins from people, nothing we do is hid from God.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."

What are presumptuous sins? Presumptuous means arrogant or proud. These are sins we knowingly commit, and we are glad we did them. We get a glimpse of the meaning from **Ex 21:14 "But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die."** King David having Uriah killed to hide his sin of committing adultery with Uriah's wife is an example of presumptuous sin. However, God in his mercy did not slay David, and we are not slain because of the mercy of God given us through the finished work of Jesus.

"let them not have dominion over me:" King David is praying to God to not let presumptuous sins become habitual in his life. Neither should they be in ours.

What is the great transgression? Transgression means rebellion. Thus, we understand that the great transgression would be to rebel against God and his commandments.

14 "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

In closing, David prays something that should always be present in our hearts and minds as children of God. Why? Because, if the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, are acceptable to God, we are walking in the righteousness of Christ Jesus. We are fulfilling the two great commandments **Mt 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."** And we are fulfilling the New Commandment given by Jesus **Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."**

What a great example our Saviour set of completely following the statutes of the Lord. If we walk in the pathway that Jesus set before us then it shall be with us as David said in *Ps 19:8 "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."* We also see that Jesus taught this very same thing in *Joh 13:17; 16 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."* May we ever be found with hearts rejoicing in the joy of God's salvation in our lives, Amen!