

**Psalm 19**

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To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
And the firmament shows His handiwork.  
2 Day unto day utters speech,  
And night unto night reveals knowledge.  
3 There is no speech nor language  
Where their voice is not heard.  
4 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,  
5 Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.  
6 Its rising is from one end of heaven,  
And its circuit to the other end;  
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;  
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;  
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.  
11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned,  
And in keeping them there is great reward.  
12 Who can understand his errors?  
Cleanse me from secret faults.  
13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
Let them not have dominion over me.  
Then I shall be blameless,  
And I shall be innocent of great transgression.  
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in Your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

**The heavens declare God's glory, v1–6.**

God has made display of Himself in creation that leaves every man inexcusable (cf. Rom 1:18–20, 10:18).

The Lord has covered His varied earth (v4) with the one sky (v1), to declare to all of His creatures one message of one God, regardless of their particular language (v3).

The sequence of days and nights communicates His wisdom/skill (v1b) and knowledge (v2b).

In these glorious heavens are creatures that not only display His glory but model unto us the manner in which we ought to fulfill our purpose.

The bridegroom would get all dressed up and come out with joy and purpose for his victorious trek to his soon-to-be father-in-law's house to claim his bride. The strong man is eager to run the race to enjoy and display the strength God has given him. Similarly, the sun rises at its appointed time and shines brightly while it moves steadily and undaunted in the path created for it.

So ought we to image God—for that is our chief, unique characteristic—with joy, and promptness, and steadiness, and persistence. But, we are idolaters who replace imaging God in the lives He has given us with making from ourselves images that we impart to Him (cf. Rom 1:21 – 23, Ac 17:29; this can be done just as easily by any of the other arts or creativity of man as by gold or silver or stone). The irony! The creatures that we use to make the images are themselves models to us of how we ought to fulfill the purpose for which God made us.

**The Scriptures declare and accomplish God's will, v7–11.**

Yahweh has given His covenant people Scriptures to rescue them from their inexcusable state.

The switch to the covenant Name in this section shows forth grace. The God-Who-Is has bound Himself by blood-atonement to sinners whose idolatry has struck against His uniqueness as the Creator. God's law (v7a; "torah," instruction) refers to more than commandments; it is the whole of His revelation. He has given it to do what the creation (and the commandment!) could not: convert (not just restore) the soul (cf. Rom 1:16–18).

Yahweh's testimony (v7b) is better than that of any of the creatures (cf. v1–4); it gives not only the message but the understanding and accepting of that message.

Yahweh's statutes (v8a) not only have a precision to them that displays that we ought to be glad, but also a power in them to give the gladness that we ought to have.

What good can the light of the sun do for the blind? But He Whose first commandment created that light (cf. Gen 1:3) cures also blindness by giving light to the eyes (v8b, cf. 2Cor 4:1–6). When the elect read and hear the gospel in Scripture, the Spirit says in their hearts "let there be light."

And those whose eyes have been thus enlightened proceed to walk by the fear of the Lord (v9a), which walking is a cleansing work that will continue until its completion in an eternally enduring spotlessness.

Yahweh's Word condemns the wicked and vindicates those whom He saves, and all these judgments (v9b) together (better translation than 'altogether') are righteous. He is both just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (cf. Rom 3:26).

The Word of God, then, is to be preferred above the most valuable created thing (v10); for, it does what no creature can do. He has displayed Himself to us and communicated Himself to us in many ways, but He has exalted His Word above all His Name (cf. Ps 138:2). It drives us away from our sin by the warnings of the law (v11a) and then by the gospel drives us to God Himself both as our reward and the Means by which we may gain it (v11b).

**The believer depends upon the glorious God for the doing of His will, v12–14.**

Believers, therefore, look to their covenant Lord to use His Word.

When we are converted by the Word, God's glory in creation goes from testifying against us to strengthening our faith that He is personally able to do that for which He has designed His Word as the perfect instrument. Just as "there is nothing hidden from the sun's heat" (v6c), so now the fact that our sin cannot be hidden from God (v12) is good news, for He sees it all as the Covenant Redeemer (v14c) Who has made the believer His covenant servant (v11a, 13a).

He knows and forgives even those sins whose guilt we do not feel; He knows and cleanses us from even those sins whose power we do not perceive—even to the thoughts and intentions of our hearts (v13a, 14a).