

**Text: Psalm 19:1-14**  
**Title: “God Speaks”**

**SERMON BUMPER** –I’m continuing this summer series from the book of Psalms. Let’s open our Bibles to Psalm 19. One morning last week before I read my Bible I prayed as I often do, “Lord speak to me through your Word.” The instant I prayed that I felt the Lord correcting me. I don’t need to ask God to speak. He is always faithful to speak. I must ask God to help me hear what He is speaking. And that’s our prayer today. God speaks and Psalm 19 shows us two powerful ways God speaks and the response that should be ignited in our hearts. God wants us to know Him, so He speaks in different ways to reveal Himself.

## **1. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS CREATION.**

Psalm 19 is a song composed by David to be sung by the choir. (You see that in the little inscription at the beginning.) David lived a lot of his life outdoors and he’s spent countless hours staring up into the nighttime sky or seeking shelter from the midday sun. He found that God speaks through His creation.

### **Psalm 19:1a - The heavens declare the glory of God;**

Creation reveals God’s **GLORY**. The sun, stars and planets all point us to God’s glory. God’s glory is the out-shining of all of His marvelous attributes and qualities.

### **Psalm 19:1b - the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

Creation reveals God’s **POWER**. Creation is God’s handiwork. The “skies” refer to the lower atmosphere, like clouds and storms. We cannot imagine the power that it takes to create like God creates and to control what God controls in nature.

**Jeremiah 32:17 - “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.**

Literally, God’s creation keeps on declaring and keeps on proclaiming. In fact...

### **Psalm 19:2a - Day after day they pour forth speech;**

Creation reveals God's **FAITHFULNESS**. When you see nature functioning with such consistency, with seasons and the cycles of the moon, it points to the faithfulness of the Creator.

**Psalm 19:2b - night after night they display knowledge.**

Creation reveals God's **WISDOM**. His knowledge, His discernment, His understanding is on display in the operation of the universe and nature.

**Psalm 19:3-4a - There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

God's creation is a "wordless sermon." Without words creation speaks to the ends of the earth. Anyone who has taken time to observe the skies hears God speaking without words. Now David's thoughts turn from the sky to the sun.

**Psalm 19:4b-6a - In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;**

Creation reveals God's **MAJESTY**. David says the outer space is like a tent where God has placed the sun as a lantern. The sun is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber walking toward his bride. The sun is like a strong, tireless runner, racing from the east to the west every day. Creation reveals the majesty of God.

**Psalm 19:6b - nothing is hidden from its heat.**

Creation reveals God's **INTENSITY**. The sun is intense as it penetrates the atmosphere. The sun's presence is felt everywhere, and so is this intense presence of God felt by everyone. In fact...

**Romans 1:20 - For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.**

God speaks in creation. But if all we have is just God's revelation through creation we might think God was just an impersonal force ... that He is remote and detached from us. Is this all God is interested in revealing about Himself? No!

**ILLUSTRATION** – I didn't get a very good grounding in art appreciation growing up. So if I go to, say, the Modern Art Museum here in Fort Worth I see pretty colors and interesting shapes, but honestly I don't really get it. However, if a docent walks me through the gallery and introduces me to the history of a particular piece and something about the artist and what he or she intended, then I have a better chance of getting it. Well the same thing is true with nature. Every human looks at nature and if they're honest they see things that lead them to the One who created it all. But God wants them to know Him so...

## **2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS INSTRUCTIONS.**

So there's the world and there's the Word. Creation teaches us about the GLORY of God, but the Scriptures show us that we have fallen short of the glory of God in our sin. Creation reveals the POWER of God, but the Scriptures show us how that power can transform our lives. Creation reveals the FAITHFULNESS of God, but the Scripture shows us how His faithfulness is expressed in His love for us. Creation reveals the MAJESTY of God, but the Scripture teaches us how to worship His Majesty. Creation reveals God's INTENSITY, but only Scriptures show us God's mercy in shielding us from the intensity of God's wrath. God speaks through His instructions ... His Word.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Tomorrow we begin Vacation *Bible* School. I remember as a boy being invited by some friends to VBS. I heard the pastor every day read the theme verses of Scripture for that week and I distinctly remember the feeling that there was something really special about God's Word. I wasn't saved until a few years later, but the seed was sown that day.

In Psalm 19:7-11 six different names are given for God's authoritative instruction. The pattern goes like this: what it is ... what it's like ... and what it does. So let's look at it.

### **Psalm 19:7a - The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.**

**What is it? It is the LAW.** This is the Hebrew word *torah*. These are the teachings and directions of the Lord, revealed in what we have today primarily as the first five books of the OT.

**What is it like? It is PERFECT.** Here we see the sufficiency of Scripture. It is complete and sufficient to guide us in every way.

**What does it do? It REVIVES the soul.** God's Word refreshes and restores us on the inside.

**Psalm 19:7b - The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.**

**What are they? They are STATUTES.** This is God's witness or testimony the He bears to Himself.

**What are they like? They are TRUSTWORTHY.** The Scriptures are infallible, inerrant and sure. You can trust God, therefore you can trust His Word.

**What do they do? They make the simple WISE.** The "simple" ones are those who are unlearned or gullible to error. But Scriptures make us wise in daily life.

**Psalm 19:8a - The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.**

**What are they? They are PRECEPTS.** The focus of this word seems to be on laying out the proper path for life.

**What are they like? They are RIGHT.** The path God shows us in His Word is the right way to live.

**What do they do? They give JOY to the heart.** I can't explain this, but there are times when I'm reading the Word and my heart is filled with this unexplained joy.

**Psalm 19:8b - The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**

**What are they? They are COMMANDS.** Here is another synonym for God's instruction.

**What are they like? They are RADIANT.** God's Word is not as dark and confusing as we think. The word "radiant" means "clear," like spring water.

**What do they do? They give LIGHT to the eyes.** Psalm 119:105 says that God's Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

**Psalm 19:9a - The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.**

**What is it? It is the FEAR of the Lord.** We should approach the Word of God with the same reverence and awe that we would approach God Himself ... with reverence and holy fear.

**What is it like? It is PURE.** There are no imperfections in the Word of God.

**What does it do? It ENDURES forever.** The Bible says that the grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord stands forever ... never outdated or irrelevant.

**Psalm 19:9b - The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.**

**What are they? They are ORDINANCES.** These are God's rules to live by.

**What are they like? They are SURE and RIGHTEOUS.** "Sure" means "true." God's Word is truth and righteousness. David rolls on.

**Psalm 19:10 - They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.**

God's Word is infinitely precious and sweet ... more valuable and desirable than anything in this world.

**Psalm 19:11 - By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.**

**What does it do? It WARNS us and REWARDS us.** The Word will get all up in our business. Martin Luther said, "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me."

On this Father's Day, let me just challenge our men to be men of the Word who lead their families in the Word. Read it with your family. Talk about it with your kids. The word warns us and rewards us. We submit to the Word because God not only speaks through His creation and through His instructions but ...

**3. GOD SPEAKS FOR OUR TRANSFORMATION.**

God speaks to David which prompts David to speak to God. The purpose of God in revealing Himself in the world and in the Word is so that we will respond to Him. What a powerful prayer we have before us in the last verses. It's a prayer of CONFESSION.

**Psalm 19:12 - Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.**

The Word of God is like a mirror. It shows us who we are. We read the Bible and then the Bible reads us. The Holy Spirit uses the Word to help us understand and discern our sinful errors. Then we can pray like David, "Forgive my hidden faults." Our sins stay hidden until God shines the light of His Word on us which brings conviction, confession and repentance. Then we trust God to forgive us. This is also a prayer of CORRECTION.

**Psalm 19:13 - Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.**

"Willful sin" is presumptuous sin. It is arrogant sin when we think, "Well God will forgive me anyway." That's dangerous so David prays, "Lord, hold me back from willful sin." So God uses His Word to reveal our sin, rebuke our sin, remove our sin and then restrain our sin so that we would not be guilty of even greater transgressions ... stepping outside the boundaries of God for our lives. This is also a prayer of COMMITMENT.

**Psalm 19:14 - May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

The words of our mouth reflect the condition of our heart. David wants to be pleasing to the Lord, inside and out. The Lord is our Rock and our Redeemer. He's the only One who can deliver us from sin and make us pleasing to God. And this is where we intersect with the Gospel. The Gospel says that God's Law shows us our sin, but God's Son delivers us of our sin. We can't save or redeem ourselves so God sent His Son Jesus Christ, the personal Word of God. God's written Word introduces us God's personal Word, Jesus Christ. Christ died for our sins so that when we put our trust in Him our sins are forgiven and we can truly be pleasing in God's sight.

We can't keep God's commands or obey His rules and instructions until we are transformed by Christ when we received the gift of eternal life. Do you need that today?

God speaks through Creation, His speaks through Scripture and He has spoken through His Son. And He speaks through us. We are Christ's witnesses. And one of the ways we do that is through the Lord's Supper. 1 Corinthians 11:26 says, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."