

Knowing God

- Psalm 19

- **This morning I want to talk with you about what I consider the most important thing for any person to evaluate in their own lives. I want us to look at Knowing God.**
 - Church is a place where people can come & they can learn about who God is, what God is about, what He is like, the characteristics of God, and most assuredly what it is to worship God, AMEN?
 - But church, the Christian faith, and the reason Jesus came to die is not just so we can have an intellectual knowledge of God, but so that we might have a heart knowledge of who He is.
- **Today, I want you to know how you can know God personally.**
 - I don't believe in the slightest that Knowing God or even your relationship with Him ought to be something that you just guess about.
 - I believe we can have assurance of our faith, assurance of Whom we believe in, and assurance of the promises He has given to us.
 - You can know Him personally this morning.
 - Not only can you know Him, you can also trust Him.
- **So in a world where it seems that the things of God too many are such a mystery, how can you know God? Well, Psalm 19 gives us 3 ways in which God speaks to us & we don't have to guess about it.**
 - I. The Heavens Speak Of God (vv.1-6)**
 - "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. 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, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth—that is, the sun's going forth—is from the end of the heavens, and his circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."
 - I love scripture that is plain, and here the psalmist is clear that even the very heavens speak of God & His greatness.
 - As you look up into the starry night, as you see the vast universe that Almighty God has created, that alone is enough to confirm what the Bible has said, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." For out of nothing, nothing comes.
 - So what is it that the heavens declare?
 - a. The Glory of God. (v.1)**
 - i. Go out some night and just look upward at that magnificence in the sky and think about all that God has created for us. To see the majestic heavens & the countless stars.
 - ii. Sometimes we get so busy with life that we forget to look up, do you know what I mean?
 - iii. When you look at the oceans and the waves, what keeps them in their place. A complex God who created something called gravity, that not only keeps the waters at bay, but keeps our planet in perfect rotation & just the right distance between planets, the sun & space.
 - b. The Greatness of God**
 - i. Once you see God's glory, you begin to see the greatness of our God.

1. A great preacher, eloquent said one time, "God stepped from behind the curtain of nowhere and stood upon the platform of nothing and spoke a world into existence."
- ii. The more you study about this great creation, the more we are able to see just how weak & how limited we are.
- iii. Though we have come a long way in this modern world, the truth is we have never really created anything, "we have just re-arranged what God has already created."
- iv. God created in one great act everything.
 1. Light travels at 186,282 miles per second and you would have to travel four and one-half years to get to the nearest star. That doesn't even begin to explore the unknown universe.
 2. Think about the intricacies of this world. The smallest unit of human life is the cell. There are so many cells in the human body, 10 trillion of them in your body. Some of us have more than others, but let's take an average person—10 trillion of these cells. And Paul Doty of Harvard University said that one of these cells, just one, is more complicated than New York City.
 3. The Bible reminds us all that we were fearfully & wonderfully made by God. What an awesome thought.
- v. Whether you look inward, whether you look outward, whether you see the vastness or the minuteness of this creation, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork."
- vi. So with all that being said, a person has no excuse whatsoever for not believing in God.
 1. Romans 1:19-20 - "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."

- I believe, as the psalmist, that the Heavens Speak of God. But look, there's another way that God speaks.

II. The Bible Speaks of God (v.7-11)

- "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 is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them is great reward."
- You can know God through creation, but you have to have the Bible to truly know the heart and mind of God, not only what God has wrought, but what God has written.

a. God's Word Is Perfect

- i. He says in v.7 that the law of the Lord is perfect, perfect, converting the soul..." That's the reason we believe in the inerrancy of the Scripture.
- ii. Every sentence, every jot, every tittle, every syllable is put there by the mind and purpose of God. God wrote it. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." And a God of truth could never inspire error.

b. God's Word Is Pure

- i. When the Bible says it's pure, that means there's no mixture of error in the Bible. There are over six thousand promises in the Bible, and not one of them of God's pure Word has ever been broken.
- ii. And one of those promises is that this precious Word will endure forever, and that's a promise you can trust in.

c. God's Word Is Precious

- i. "They're more desirable than much fine gold..." When is the last time we looked at God's Word in that fashion?
- ii. Most of the time, we think very little of the Bible as a valuable & priceless resource.
- iii. To a true believer, the Bible is precious and you cannot love God without loving His Word.

- The Heavens speak of God, the Bible speaks of God ...

III. The Holy Spirit Speaks To Our Hearts of God

- Knowing about God is important & reading the Bible is certainly essential, but it is God speaking to our hearts that we need.
- "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults. 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. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." This is a prayer to the Holy Spirit.
- You see, your heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and so is mine. So what do we need? We need the Holy Spirit of God to speak to our hearts. Jesus said, concerning the Holy Spirit, "When He is come, He will convince the world of sin, or righteousness, and of judgment."

a. Power To Convict Us

- i. I can get you to nod your head that you've sinned, but you'll never understand the depth of your sin, nor will you ever truly be convicted of that sin. You'll only agree, perhaps.
- ii. But when the Holy Spirit of God speaks to you, that's the convicting Word of God.
- I believe with all my heart that God wants to speak to your heart today. But you have to be receptive, you have to be willing to act on God's directing & leading.
 - o Sometimes folks will say, "Boy that was a great sermon, it sure convicted me." If that's as far as it went, there has been no change.
 - o You can believe in God & even be convicted of your sin, but it is the confession of our sin & claiming His blood that brings salvation to our souls.

b. Power To Cleanse

- i. I thank God this morning for the cleansing Word of the Spirit.
- ii. You cannot know God personally and intimately if there's sin in your heart and in your life. And so how does the Holy Spirit cleanse? Through the atoning blood.
 - 1. I John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

c. Power To Control

- i. "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then shall I be upright, and then shall I be innocent from the great transgression."
- ii. Two things you better always be cognizant of: the possibility of secret faults and the danger of presumptuous sins.
 - 1. It's one thing to slip into sin; it's another thing to stumble into sin.

2. But we need to be praying that God will keep you from presumptuous sin. That is where you say, "I know this is wrong, but..." You are in grave danger when you do that. Where there is the conviction of sin, there's the cleansing of sin, there is the control from sin, there's the control of the Spirit. Why?
3. So that we can communion with God and our walk, our heart, and our life be acceptable before God.

➤ **Let me conclude by saying this. God has put His Word in the heavens. God has put His Word in our hands. And God has put His Word in our hearts.**

- Do you have to be a scholar to be able to understand God's Word? Absolutely not. God can make His way clear even to a small child.
- But I ask you to examine your hearts this morning & consider is God speaking to you?
 - Have you run from God & leaned on your head knowledge & now God is speaking to you about a relationship with Him?
 - Are there some decisions you need to make & you need God to speak clearly in your life this morning?
- The psalmist simply came before the Lord & said, "Lord, speak to me." And when He does, obey Him.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? And begin to pray for those round about you who may not know the Lord. And if you're not certain that you're saved, or you're certain that you're not saved, you want to be saved, I want to remind you that believing in God is not enough. The devil believes that. You need to meet Jesus. You need to be saved. You need a personal encounter with God through Christ. Would you pray this prayer? "O God, I am a sinner, and I'm lost, and I cannot save myself. I need to be saved, and I want to be saved. Jesus, You died to save me. You promised to save me if I would trust You." Pray this now: "I do trust You, Jesus." Pray it from your heart. "I do trust You, Lord Jesus. Forgive my sin. Thank you for paying for my sin with Your blood on the cross. Thank You for saving me from Hell. Thank You, Lord. Now come into my life, and begin now to make me the person You want me to be, and let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Save me, Lord. Amen.