“Christ in the Psalms: God’s Glory Revealed”

Psalm 19; Romans 1:18-20

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 3/6/22)

 Whether you are 4, 44, or 94, you are developing your theology. You are asking the questions God wants you to ask: Can I know God? What is God like? Will I live forever? Does God care about me? God graciously provides some answers in Psalm 19. He has not hidden Himself from anyone. He desires to be known. God reveals Himself to us in His **creation**, in His **Word**, and even in our own **consciences**.

 God preaches endlessly to all people through His creation. The verbs in 19:1 (“declare”, “shows”) indicate that this is ongoing. As you gaze in awe at His creation, do you marvel at the complexity of it all? The beauty and function of the heavens suggest both power and purpose. (Q1) In Gen. 1 God spoke the universe into existence, an ongoing declaration of His deity and His attributes. He is both Designer and Sustainer. Even before creation, God was! God reveals Himself clearly in creation, yet people deny God, or worship the creation, not the Creator. (Q2) But everyone who exists can see the glory of God in creation. (Q3) Creation gives a guide for discussions with grandchildren and neighbors. Enjoying the wonders of creation leads to praise (Rev. 4:11).

 In Rom. 1:18-20, the Word of God speaks of both creation and conscience. Why do men reject God? Because they suppress this revelation. It takes effort to deny Him. They deny that we are created for His glory and that He created creation for us. We are made in His image. (Q4) Many don’t want to be accountable to God. (Q5) No one becomes a saved person by simply staring at a starry sky. No one is saved from the wrath of God by just looking at creation. To put it another way, natural revelation condemns all (shows our sinful separation from a holy God), but saves none. Since God wants to be known, He specifically reveals Himself through His Word. In verses 7-11, David praises God for His special, specific revelation. David realizes there is an infinite gap between himself and God’s holiness. All of scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, points to salvation through Jesus as the means to bridge that gap. (Q6)

 God also reveals Himself to man in his conscience. In 19:12-13, David’s conscience tells him that He is a sinner before God needing cleansing. Have you been moved by God’s specific revelation of Himself in Scripture? God’s Word reveals how His people can be cleansed of their sin by faith in His grace. God’s people are NOT saved by their walk, their keeping of the law. They are saved by grace through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus. All of the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament were but a picture that pointed to a Redeemer who would come and satisfy God’s wrath toward our sin.

 Psalm 19:14 ends with these two phrases: “be acceptable in Thy sight” and “my Redeemer.” Jesus is the One who makes me acceptable! Look back at Ps. 1:1-3, Ps. 2:12, and Ps. 16:8-11. They all have to do with Jesus. They all point to the finished work of Christ for His people. He shed His blood on the cross for our sin. He is resurrected so we can share in His victory over death.

 Why does God reveal Himself in creation? Why does He reveal Himself in His Word? Why does He reveal Himself in our consciences? He desires to be known intimately. 2 Cor. 4:6 sums it up well. God, You are not distant. Thank You! May Your Holy Spirit convict us of sin, and lead us to repentance, belief, and obedience to You. Amen.

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Can you give some examples of this? What are some benefits or blessings or miracles of creation that point to Him?
2. In college, every day I would walk by Carl Sagan’s lab. On the roof was a tank full of ooze. Every few seconds it was zapped by artificial lightning. Funny… he still hasn’t created life. What drives men to do this… or build the Tower of Babel… or ???
3. Discuss Rom. 11:36 in respect to creation.
4. Why do you think we are made in God’s image? He didn’t have to do that!
5. “Many don’t want to be accountable to God.” Why else do men reject Him or remain apathetic or indifferent to Him?
6. Years ago, I read a book by Bruce Larson, called Bruchko. In it, a young man went to Brazil to find and evangelize a lost tribe. Instead, he got lost, fell in a river, and was swept over a waterfall. The lost tribe found him (!!!) and nursed him back to health. When he opened his eyes, they implored him, “How can we be made right with God?” They knew they were sinners and that God was holy, and their oral tradition had said that a light-skinned man would one day tell them how they could be right with God. Even closer to home is the example of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. Their oral tradition said that one day, men in black robes would tell them how to be right with God. (This whole story is printed on a wall at the museum below the Cataldo Mission. Definitely worth the drive!). In each case, the Word of God brought about the salvation of a whole people group! How do you explain these two happenings?

“Wonderful Grace of Jesus” (Lillenas)

Wonderful grace of Jesus,
Greater than all my sin;
How shall my tongue describe it,
Where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden,
Setting my spirit free;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

* Refrain:
Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All-sufficient grace for even me!
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
Greater far than all my sin and shame;
Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,
Praise His Name!