“Christ in the Psalms: Are You Talking to Me?”

Psalm 19:1-14

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 3/20/22)

Psalm 19 points us to the greatness of God and to a relationship of reciprocal, loyal love. God also reveals Himself convincingly through His people’s consciences. Every person has a conscience. God’s law is written on our hearts, no matter our culture. But to walk with Him, your conscience must be enlivened by the grace of God. A perfect example of this is Saul of Tarsus. His conscience was clear as he was killing Christians, but it was clearly wrong! Then his conscience was touched by God’s grace on the road to Damascus, and he became a new man. David, the writer of Psalm 19, also had a conscience brought to life by the grace of God. Before man’s conscience is enlivened by God, man “does what is right in his own eyes.” (Prov. 3:7 and Isa. 5:21) It is only God’s grace that allows one to understand and obey.

Notice in verses 12-14 that the pronouns change. It gets really personal! Are you God’s servant? Do you long to be cleansed from sin, even secret sin? What is secret sin? It could be sins that you’re aware of that no one else sees. But God sees every sin. It takes a work of grace to stop hiding from God and run to Him. Secret sin can also be sins you are not even aware of. You might miss them if you are measuring yourself against others. Only God can measure you correctly, and His standard is holy perfection. Read verse 13 again. What kind of servant would willfully engage in presumptuous sin? Unfortunately, all of us, at some time or another. (Q1) In fact, secret sin can often lead to presumptuous sin. Remember David and Bathsheba? Does your conscience testify that you need grace from God to live free from presumptuous sin?

The conscience must be constantly led by, enlivened by the Word of God (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:1-3; Gal. 5:25). (Q2) The success of God’s people depends on what they DO with the Word of God. You are meant to be led by it, think on it, act on it constantly. Have you noticed that we have the least success spiritually when our thoughts of God are few and far between? Have you been in the Word lately? Have you been in the company of God’s people lately? (Q3) Is His Word becoming part of you? Your enemy (Satan) militates against you to keep you out of God’s Word. It is a spiritual battle.

There is a phrase that describes people in the church professing a faith in God, but living as if He doesn’t exist. It is called “spiritual atheism”. How about you? Is your conscience influenced by the Word of God so that you will be led by the Spirit of God? What we choose to dwell on (meditate on) influences our thinking and our actions (see Phil. 4:8-9). (Q4) When my meditation is on His Word, it transforms my life. When Martin Luther was put on trial and asked to recant, he said, “My conscience is captive to the Word of God.” Can we say the same?

Have you wondered why Pastor Steve entitled this series “Christ in the Psalms”? It’s because all of these psalms point us to the Lord Jesus. He is the rock, strength, and shelter referred to in verse 14. He is the One to run toward to escape the wrath our sin deserves. He alone is our Redeemer. The whole Bible is a love story: God’s great love for us! Jesus is the fullness of God’s love for His people. Jesus is the Redeemer for His people. He gives us redemption through His shed blood. What’s more, we, His people, become His bride forever and ever! Wow! David proclaims his hope in this redemption. Do you have this hope? Is Christ **your** Redeemer? The conscience is kept well by repentance, obedience to God’s will, and preoccupation with His grace in Christ. He loves **you** so very much! (Q5)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Do you excuse yourself for a little gossip, pride, or bouts of anger? Are those little, white lies OK? How about those roving eyes, or usurping control that is not yours? What should be done if we see presumptuous sin in ourselves?
2. Read Josh. 1:8 again. How does this verse help you understand the relationship between the Word of God and your conscience?
3. Why do you go to a church service or a Bible Study each week?
4. Newscasts, travel plans, recipes, discontentment… there is a long list of distractions that can consume our hearts. What are some habits that will help us dwell on what is true and pure?
5. How does Psalm 19:14 explain your hope when you’ve strayed off course spiritually? Be specific.

“Grace Greater Than Our Sin” (Johnson)

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

* + Refrain:  
    Grace, grace, God’s grace,  
    Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
    Grace, grace, God’s grace,  
    Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?