

The Bible: A Priceless Treasure

Text: Ps. 19:7-11

Intro:

Man has always tried to understand God!

-Lives in a box—always trying to chisel his way out to see the supernatural!

-Man could not get up to God—God had to come down to reveal Himself to man!

-Greatest privilege we have is that God loved us enough to take interest in revealing himself to us!

-David really appreciated this fact and wrote a Psalm to be sung in Israel's worship service! A Psalm to the song director! The theme of this song—God has revealed Himself to us!

I. God's Revelation through the Skies: Nature (1-6)

- Note 4 things about God's revelation through nature:

A. Manner of Revelation: Silence of Nature

- Heavens are declaring—manifesting the glory of God
- Their expanse is showing the work of His hands!
- The Lord revealed His message to lost mankind through nature itself!
- Every star in the universe exists to declare the Glory of God!
- Every morning the Sun arises in all of its glory to paint the world in the bright and glorious colors of life—all the while declaring that there is a God who make all that our eyes behold!
- This revelation is not a revelation of speech or sound! Not wrapped in the garments of human language—It is written in a universal language that all can understand! The silence of nature declares that God exists!

B. Contents of Revelation: Glory of God!

- Reveal God's presence: there has to be a creator!
- Reveal His power.

C. Object/extent of Revelation: (vs. 4)

- To all men everywhere!
- All men see the sun! Almost every nation has a tradition somewhere in its history of worshiping the sun or some aspect of nature! They know that there is a creator and they know that He is powerful!

D. Purpose of Revelation: Accountability! (Romans 1)

- There is a God!
- He is powerful and He owns all that exists!
- You are accountable to that God! You need to please Him!
- Men down through the centuries have tried to please the God they did not know! Paul tells us of the Athenians who had an altar to the "unknown God"—that God was revealed in Nature!

But this revelation was not sufficient---all it could do was let men know that God existed and that they were accountable to Him but nature could not tell them how they could please this God:

- As great as Nature is—there is an even greater means of revelation! The Bible!
- The vast heavenly bodies orbiting with flawless precision in the skies are a clear manifestation of the infinite wisdom and power of the creator!
NEVERTHELESS—the celestial panorama is not the ultimate form of divine revelation! It is the study of God's will as revealed in the scriptures which presents the clearest available perception of the creator!

II. God's Revelation through the Scriptures: Biblical (7-11)

A. A manner of Revelation: Bible

B. Contents of Revelation:

- More than just the presence and power of the creator!
- NOTE! In vs. 1-6 the name that is used for God is God—the mighty One! This name points out His power and might!
- NOTE! In vs. 7-ff the name used for God is Lord—Jehovah! This is God’s special/personal name given to His chosen people!
- Scriptures reveal more than just God’s presence and His power—they reveal His personality! They tell us what God is like!

C. Object of Revelation:

- His chosen people! Name Jehovah was given to His special people who had a relationship with Him!

D. Purpose of Revelation: Fellowship!

- Bible is a priceless possession—it does what the forces of nature could not do!
- It brings a man into a right relationship with God---fellowship!
- How? By providing a spiritual remedy for His spiritual weaknesses!
- Note this treasure—the Bible is described in great detail!
- It is a treasure because it provides the answer to man’s sin problem—and gives a remedy for spiritual weakness!
- 6 titles
- 6 descriptions
- 6 effects or results!

1. Weans a man from evil: 7

The law of the Lord is perfect restoring the soul!

- Law of the Lord: Instruction or teaching (all of the bible)
- Perfect: whole, complete,
I Sam. 14:41 give a perfect (complete) portion or lot...
Job 36:4 god is perfect in knowledge (complete)
- Converting the soul: converting; turning or restoring—a reversal or direction! Soul—entire man!

Application: God’s instruction or teaching is complete and it is sufficient to turn a man’s entire life around when he submits to that teaching! That is what some of you need this morning! Submit to God’s complete instruction! Turn and be revitalized.

2. Delivers a man from spiritual naivety: 7

The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple!

- Testimony: Reminders or signs given by God! Declarations about Himself.
- Sure: trustworthy—dependable! SECURE!
- Making wise the simple:
 - Simple: gullible, ignorant, naïve, immature
 - Wise: skillful, discerning, prudent

Application: It helps a man see things as they really are spiritually and make right choices on the basis of that perception!

- Some of you are spiritually naïve—gullible!
- You constantly find yourself making choices that lead you in spiritual messes! How can you remedy that? The declarations that God has made about Himself will make you wise and skillful in your Christian walk!

Illust: God has made a declaration about Himself: He will punish sin! When you understand this declaration—it will make you wise in your decisions about what you allow into your life!

3. Leads to spiritual contentment: 8

The precepts of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart!

- Precepts: Responsibilities that God places upon man!
- Right: straight—correct! Upright! Clear!
- Rejoiceth the heart:
 - Heart: inner man
 - Rejoiceth: not laughter---but contentment—and satisfaction in spite of circumstances!

- The responsibilities that God lays upon you are right and good! They are clearly delineated for you in scripture and they will bring true satisfaction to your inner soul!
- The reason some of you live in turmoil is because you refuse to live up to the responsibilities God has place upon you!
 - Keep pure
 - Read the Bible
 - Keep Sabbath day for God!
 - When you refuse to meet these responsibilities you forfeit the right to contentment! Paul says Godly contentment is great gain!
 - You are miserable and try to find happiness outside of God’s design and it will only lead to further misery!

4. Directs into God’s will: 8

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes!

- Commandment: Divine imperatives! Unbendable, unbreakable, Unchangeable, Unchallenged LAWS handed down by a supreme authority!
(10 commandments—not suggestions! Must be obeyed without question or exception! ALL THE TIME!)
- Pure: idea here is that of radiance—brightness! Clear or clean! Used in the verse: Where there is not ox the crib is clean!
 - There is not defilement or uncleanness in God’s divine demands!
- They enlighten the eyes:
 - Enlighten: to give understanding—to illuminate
 - Eyes: refers to our intellect or to our understanding.
- God’s divine demands—unchangeable, unbendable laws for living will shine and illuminate our understanding in the way that god desires for us to live!

5. Stabilizes our relationship with God: 9

The fear of the Lord is clean enduring forever.

- Fear: awe—reverence! A wholesome respect for who God is!
- Clean: purifying! Medical word work used for catherization!
- Enduring forever! It is permanent in its results!
- When you have a reverential awe for who God is—the effect will be a purging of the things that displease Him—permanently!
- When you really understand what God is like—and that He lives with you all the time—then some of the things you allow into your life would go out for good! (movies, smoking, thoughts, speech, etc.)
- Illust of cop driving beside you!

- Fear of the Lord means living as if God were watching everything you do—and He does!

6. Builds our faith in God's actions: 9

The judgments of the Lord are true they are righteous altogether!

- Judgments: Judicial term—decisions—ore sentences! Here is refers to the actions and decisions of the Lord that have been revealed in the Bible!
- True: certain, dependable, right, enduring!
- Righteous: conformed to a standard! They measure up to god's nature! Nothing that God has done—or decided is contrary to His nature: justice and holiness!
- You may not think so and it may not appear to be fair—but from God's perspective—it is just and right!
- Illust: 2 boys from Christian homes died of cancer!
 - One family bitter because of a weakness in the Work!
 - The other family turned tragedy into triumph because they had seen God's faithfulness and the rightness of His action in the Bible!
 - Do you think that Mary questioned God when she was pregnant out of wedlock? What about Joseph? Do you think Paul questioned God when unjustly treated? I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content! That is what some of you need!
 - Your faith in your God is weak because you have not see His righteousness in the Word!

III. Man's Response the Scriptures: Application:

A. Realize that it is our greatest Possession:

- Better than gold than much fine Gold!
- Gold in David's time was the measure of a man's wealth!
- Refined gold was best there was!
- Psalmist is saying: If you had refined gold—it would be worth a fortune—a great treasure! But an even greater treasure is the word of God!
- Some of you say O How precious it is—but you never read it!
- Oh—how I love it! But you never obey it!
- It is a treasure---buried beneath the dust of a bookshelf forgotten until Sunday or Wednesday!

B. Regard it as our highest Pleasure:

Sweeter than Honey in the honeycomb:

- Nothing sweeter or more pleasant in the OT world!
- As sweet as honey is—the bible is sweeter still!
- For some of you it is a bitter pill that prods and pokes you all the way down!

C. Respond to it as our strongest Protection:

- By them your servant is warned!
- Bible is our protection by warning us of sin and its consequences!
- The laws and precepts set down in its pages were not made for god's benefit—they were made for yours!
- Illust: Bible says don't marry unbelievers! Not for God's benefit—for your protection!
- Bible says protect your body's and don't misuse them—smoking etc. not for god's benefit for yours!

D. Receive from it our greatest Profit:

- In keeping them there is great reward!
- God promises eternal reward and present reward for those who live by God's Word!