**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Can an Intellectual Believe in God? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Psalm 19 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1866 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Can an intelligent person, an intellectual, believe in God?
   2. Psalm 19:1-6
   3. God has spoken, and anyone who wants to believe in God can believe in God.
   4. If a person does not believe in God, it is not because he has intellectual difficulties.
      1. It is because he has moral difficulties.
      2. Unbelief never comes out of the head; unbelief always comes out of the heart.
         1. Psalm 14:1
   5. You can be an intellectual and believe in God.
      1. Many intellectuals believe in God, and many nonintellectuals believe in God.
      2. Some intellectuals don’t believe in God, and many nonintellectuals don’t believe in God.
      3. Our intellect has very little to do with it.
   6. If you want to believe in God, then you can believe in God.
   7. God has spoken in three mighty ways.
      1. We see this in Psalm 19.
      2. Not only has God spoken to mankind in general in these ways, but God will also speak to you in these three ways.
   8. In today’s message, we will look at these three ways in which God speaks to us.
      1. And you can know the following beyond the shadow of any doubt:
         1. That God exists.
         2. That He loves you.
         3. That you can know Him.
         4. That you can have a personal, vital relationship with Him and still call yourself an intellectual.
2. there is the declaration in the skies (psalm 19:1-2)
   1. Psalm 19:1
      1. That is the declaration in the skies.
   2. The very skies themselves tell us that God exists.
   3. They tell us about God’s glory.
      1. Psalm 19:1
      2. Look up at God’s stars and see how vast His mighty universe is.
   4. They tell us about God’s greatness.
      1. Psalm 19:1
         1. The word “firmament” is another word for the heavens.
         2. It is all the work of God; God created it all.
      2. He made it out of nothing.
         1. What incredible power is seen in the creation of this universe!
         2. We know that out of nothing, nothing comes.
            1. This is a great stumbling block for the atheist.

If he does not believe in a self-existing God, then he has to believe in a self-existing universe, or that nothing times no one equals everything.

* + - * 1. It is intellectually contradictory not to believe in God.
    1. The Bible never argues the fact of God; the Bible just presents God.
       1. Genesis 1:1
    2. “God stepped from behind the curtain of nowhere and stood upon the platform of nothing and spoke a world into existence.”
    3. Man cannot create anything.
       1. All we can do is rearrange what God has created.
    4. Think of the incredible size of the heavens.
       1. It would take light four-and-a-half light years to pass our nearest star (other than our own sun).
    5. Think of the intricacy of God’s creation.
       1. Psalm 136:14
       2. The smallest unit in the human body is the cell.
          1. Paul Doty: “One cell in your body is more complicated than New York City.”
       3. God has put together a universe with great immensity and complexity, and it is all the work of God’s hands.
          1. Romans 1:19-20
    6. Of all the secular, professional groups, astronomers have the highest number of believers in God because they study the heavens.
    7. It is not a sign of intelligence not to believe in God.
       1. If you are intelligent, then you have to say that someone created all of this.
       2. It has been said that in the history of the world, there have been fifty-four great philosophers, such as Aristotle, Socrates, and Plato.
          1. Out of these fifty-four philosophers, forty of them believed in God.
          2. Of the fourteen who did not believe in God, all of them hated their father.
       3. Charles Darwin hated God and hated his father.
          1. He wrote the books, “*The Descent of Man*”and “*The Origin of the Species*,” in which he tried to explain how you can have creation without a creator, or so he thought.

It was the next best guess of the mind and the man who rejects God.

* + - 1. Frederick Nietzsche was a philosopher and the son of a dogmatic preacher.
         1. He hated his father and learned to hate God and the idea of God.
         2. He wrote the book “*Man and Superman*.”

He believed that man could achieve all that he wanted to achieve.

* + - 1. Adolf Hitler read the works of Darwin and Nietzsche.
         1. After he thought upon what Nietzsche and Darwin had written, Hitler wrote his own book, “*Mein Kampf*.”

It was his plan to make the Arian race the super race.

* + - * 1. He had a venomous hatred toward the Jewish people and thought he had the right to eliminate them.
      1. Sometimes, people will say that the trouble with religion is that there are many religious wars, and people have died as a result.
         1. In the 6,000 years of recorded history, in religious wars, about 3 million people have died.
         2. Hitler and Stalin alone, who both rejected the idea of God, are responsible for the deaths of an estimated 57 million people.
         3. In addition, when people talk about “religious wars,” they tend to include all religions, such as Muslim, Hindu, Eastern religions, etc.

Wars that only involve those of Christian faiths – 1.8 million.

Of those, the ones considered Bible-believing Christians – less than 250,000.

* 1. The heavens declare God’s goodness.
     1. Psalm 19:2
     2. There is a fixed order in the universe.
        1. Day follows night, and night follows day.
     3. There is beauty, order, and harmony.
     4. Lamentations 3:22-23
     5. God is a glorious God, He is a great God, and He is a good God.
     6. The light and warmth of the sun speak of the light and warmth of God’s grace.

1. there is the revelation of the scriptures (psalm 19:7-11)
   1. First, God’s Word written in the heavens, and second, God’s Word written in the Bible.
   2. We can know about the fact of God by studying the heavens, but we can never know the heart and mind of God by looking at the stars.
      1. We need more than this kind of natural revelation.
      2. We have to see not only what God has wrought, but we also have to see what God has taught.
         1. We have to have the Bible.
         2. We have to have the Word of God to explain to us this God that we see in nature.
   3. The virtue of the Scriptures:
      1. Psalm 19:7
         1. The only way we can be saved is by the perfect Word of God.
            1. 1 Peter 1:23
         2. It is the Word that converts the soul.
         3. It is the entrance of His Word that gives light.
         4. This speaks of the inerrancy of the Scriptures.
            1. Every sentence, every syllable, every jot, and every pen stroke were put there by the mind and the purpose of God.
         5. Jesus said that the Scriptures cannot be broken.
            1. John 10:35
         6. Not only is it perfect, but it is also sure.
            1. Do you want to be a true intellectual?

Get in the Word of God.

* + - * 1. The Word of God gives us a firm place to stand.

We have a foundation.

* + 1. Here is the wonderful thing about the Word of God:
       1. Matthew 11:25
       2. An ordinary person without a Ph.D. can go to God’s Word and receive food for his soul.
       3. So clear and plain is the Word of God.
          1. Isaiah 35:8
    2. Psalm 19:8
       1. The word “right” in this verse has the idea of a straight path.
          1. The Bible will never lead us astray.
       2. Many times, we think that God’s will is hard and that His way is difficult.
          1. But, “The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.”
       3. We ought to delight in the Word of God and in God’s way.
          1. There is a joy in knowing God’s way.
       4. God’s way is not difficult, hard, or onerous.
          1. Psalm 84:11
          2. His way is a way of joy.
       5. Psalm 19:8 also states, “The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”
          1. There is no mixture of evil or error.
          2. There are over six thousand promises in the Bible.

2 Corinthians 1:20

Not one of His promises has ever failed or been broken.

* + 1. Psalm 19:9
       1. There are no seeds of corruption in God’s Word.
       2. It will last and last.
       3. There have been several millenniums since David wrote this, and we are holding it in our hands today.
       4. The Earth passes away, the flower of the field withers, but the Word of our God endures forever.
          1. 1 Peter 1:24-25
          2. It is the incorruptible Word of God.
       5. The Bible is never out of date.
          1. It applies to every age.
          2. It never needs to be updated or revised.
    2. We should be thankful for the inerrant, infallible, and incorruptible Word of God.
  1. The value of the Scriptures:
     1. Psalm 19:10
     2. The Scriptures are precious.
        1. To a true believer, nothing is more precious than the Word of God.
        2. A person cannot truly love God without loving the Word of God.
     3. The Scriptures are protective.
        1. Psalm 19:11
        2. Protection is better than cure.
        3. The Word of God will keep us from many hurts and harms if we will only bathe our souls in its truth and walk in its light.
     4. The Scriptures are profitable.
        1. Psalm 19:11
        2. If you want to be rewarded and wise, then take the Word of God that is pure, clean, right, and righteous.
           1. It endures forever.
           2. Live by it.
        3. Saturate yourself with the Word of God.

1. there must be the illumination of the spirit (psalm 19:12-14)
   1. The Holy Spirt takes what we see objectively in nature and what we see objectively in God’s Word, and He then subjectively and spiritually interprets that to us.
      1. Then, we can know God.
   2. Now David praying to God.
      1. Verses 12 through 14 is the illumination of the Spirit.
         1. God the Holy Spirit takes what we see in nature and what we see in the Bible and begins to apply that to our hearts.
            1. If we have the declaration in the heavens and the revelation of the Scriptures without the illumination of the Spirit, then we are still not going to be there.
            2. But if we let the illumination of the Spirit take God’s Word in the heavens and God’s Word in the Bible and put God’s Word in our heart, then we will see something wonderful and beautiful.
   3. What will the Holy Spirit of God do?
      1. There is the conviction of the Spirit.
         1. Psalm 19:12
         2. Only the Holy Spirit of God can help us to understand.
         3. Before we can know God, we have to be clean of sin.
         4. Who can convict us of sin?
            1. Our carnal, dirty heart will not expose our sin.
            2. The Bible says that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will reprove the world of sin.

John 16:8

* + - 1. Psalm 19:12 also speaks of secret faults.
         1. We have secret faults that we do not know anything about.

These are things in our hearts and lives.

* + - * 1. People have moral earthquakes because they have secret faults that they do not know are there.
      1. Why do some people fall into sin?
         1. This can happen to us if we don’t pray and ask God to cleanse us from secret faults.

Psalm 19:12

* + - * 1. We see some people sailing along, and all of a sudden, they collapse and are in terrible sin.
        2. A lot of sin is an undetected weakness, an unexpected temptation, and an unprotected life.

You don’t know it is there.

You have a moral fault in you that you do not know is there.

It is a secret fault.

Then comes some temptation that you have never been faced with before, and you have not prayed this prayer.

And down you go.

* + - 1. We can have God’s Word in the skies and God’s Word in the Scriptures, and we can still fall unless we have God’s Word in the Spirit speaking to us.
         1. There must be the conviction of the Spirit.
    1. There is the cleansing of the Spirit.
       1. Psalm 19:12
       2. God’s Holy Spirit will cleanse you.
       3. There is no cleansing apart from the blood of Jesus Christ.
       4. 1 John 1:9
    2. There is the control of the Spirit.
       1. Psalm 19:13
          1. There are times when we sin with our eyes wide open.

We don’t have the strength to say no.

* + - * 1. We must pray and ask God to keep us from presumptuous sins.
        2. We need to pray this prayer because the control of the Spirit is linked to your prayer life.
      1. Every morning when you wake up, ask the Lord to cleanse you from secret faults, from every sin, and to keep you from presumptuous sin.
         1. Pray this every morning, not at the end of the day.
         2. Unlock the door of the morning with this key.
      2. When there is conviction of the Spirit, cleansing of the Spirit, and the control of the Spirit, then you will know God, have fellowship with God and walk with God.
    1. There is the communion of the Spirit.
       1. Psalm 19:14
       2. This is when God is real to us.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. God has put His Word in the skies, He has put His Word in the Bible, and God has sent His Holy Spirit to convict us, to cleanse us, to control us, and to have communication with us.
   2. Can an intellectual believe in God?
      1. Absolutely.
   3. You do not come to God because of intellect.
      1. You come to God because He first loved us, and He reveals Himself to us.
         1. 1 John 4:19
   4. Matthew 11:28
   5. Revelation 3:20
   6. There is God’s Word in the skies.
   7. There is God’s Word in the Scriptures.
   8. There is God’s Word by the Spirit.
      1. And He will speak to your heart.
   9. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   10. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
       1. Romans 3:23
       2. Romans 10:9-10
       3. Romans 10:13
       4. Acts 16:31
       5. John 3:16