

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How You Can Know God Personally

SERMON REFERENCE: Psalm 19

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2187

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) You can be an intellectual and believe in God.
- b) You need not be an intellectual to believe in God.
 - i) Matthew 11:25
- c) Belief in God is really not an intellectual matter.
 - i) We don't come to God head first but heart first.
- d) We can know God personally.
 - i) We don't have to guess about it.
 - ii) To know Him is to trust Him.
 - iii) To trust Him is to obey Him.
 - iv) To obey Him is to be blessed.
- e) Psalm 19 gives us three ways in which God speaks to us.
 - i) We can know God personally, intimately and assuredly.

2) THE CONVINCING WORD OF GOD IN THE HEAVENS (PSALM 19:1-6)

- a) Just looking into the starry night and seeing the vast universe created by Almighty God is enough to know that He exists.
 - i) Psalm 14:1
 - ii) Out of nothing, nothing comes.
- b) What do the heavens declare?
 - i) The glory of God.
 - (1) Psalm 19:1
 - ii) The greatness of God.
 - (1) Psalm 19:1
 - (2) The firmament is God's handiwork.
 - (3) Great power is demonstrated in creation.
 - (4) Mankind cannot create anything.
 - (a) All we can do is rearrange what God has already created.
 - (5) God created everything in one great act.
 - (6) Think of the vastness of the world God created:
 - (a) If we traveled at the speed of light, we could reach the moon in two seconds.
 - (b) Traveling at the speed of light, it would take four-and-one-half years to reach the nearest star.
 - (c) Traveling at the speed of light, it would take approximately ten billion years to reach the rim of the known universe.
 - (7) Think of the intricacies of the world God created:
 - (a) The smallest unit of human life is the cell.
 - (i) It has been stated that one human cell is more complicated than New York City.
 - (8) There are no laws of nature; there are only God's laws that nature obeys.
 - (a) Science only discovers what God has already put here.

- (b) Even internet technology was here for people to discover; they did not create it.
- (9) Creation is the handiwork of Almighty God; therefore, a person has no excuse for not believing in God.
 - (a) Romans 1:19-20
- (10) It is not a sign of intelligence not to believe in God.
 - (a) Historians tell us that there have only been about fifty-four great philosophers, and most of them believed in God.
 - (i) Aristotle believed in God.
 - (ii) Plato believed in God.
 - (iii) Socrates believed in God.
 - (iv) Forty of the fifty-four believed in God.
 - 1. The other fourteen who did not believe in God hated their fathers.
 - a. This includes Charles Darwin.
 - i. He could not find peace.
 - ii. His heart was filled with hate; he hated his father and hated God.
 - b. Friedrich Nietzsche was the son of a dogmatic preacher, and he hated his father.
 - i. He learned to hate God and even the idea of God.
 - ii. He also had the idea of survival of the fittest and developed the idea of a superior race.
 - iii. He was a true racist.
 - 2. Hitler read both Darwin and Nietzsche.
 - a. Hitler, speaking of the Jews, stated that he had the right to eliminate an inferior race.
 - 3. Hitler and Stalin, both students of Darwin and Nietzsche and Karl Marx, were atheists.
 - a. Together, they put to death fifty-seven million people.
 - i. If there is no God, then there's no real, intrinsic value to human life; and there's no right and wrong.
- iii) The goodness of God.
 - (1) Psalm 19:2
 - (a) There is a fixed order in the universe.
 - (i) Day and night, night and day.
 - (2) Psalm 68:19
 - (3) Lamentations 3:23
 - (4) This knowledge is universal.
 - (a) Anyone anywhere on the face of the Earth can look up and see that the heavens declare the glory of God, the greatness of God and the goodness of God.
 - (i) Psalm 14:1

- 3) THE CONVERTING WORD OF GOD IN THE HAND (PSALM 19:7-11)
- a) We can hold God's Word (the Bible) in our hands.
 - b) Psalm 19:7
 - i) We cannot know God through creation alone.
 - (1) We can know about God, but we must have the Bible to truly know the heart and mind of God.
 - (a) Not only what God has wrought but what God has written.
 - c) The virtues of the Scriptures:
 - i) Psalm 19:7
 - (1) The Scriptures are inerrant.
 - (a) Every sentence, jot, tittle, and syllable are put there by the mind and purpose of God.
 - (2) God wrote it.
 - (a) 2 Timothy 3:16
 - (b) A God of truth could never inspire error.
 - ii) It is the foundational Word.
 - (1) Psalm 19:7
 - (2) When we understand the Bible, we have a place to stand.
 - (a) It is sure and certain.
 - (b) Isaiah 35:8
 - iii) The statutes of the Lord are right.
 - (1) Psalm 19:8
 - (2) The word "right" in this verse has the idea of a straight path.
 - (a) The Bible will never lead us astray.
 - (3) Some say that it is hard to be a Christian, but the Bible teaches that the way of the transgressor is hard.
 - (a) Proverbs 13:15
 - (b) The saints of the ages have found joy in the Word of God.
 - iv) The commandment of the Lord is pure.
 - (1) The word "pure" in this passage means that there is no mixture of error in the Bible.
 - (a) There are over 6,000 promises in the Bible, and not one of them has ever been broken.
 - v) The fear of the Lord is clean.
 - (1) Psalm 19:9
 - (2) The Bible lives on because there are no seeds of corruption in the Word of God.
 - (a) The incorruptible and indestructible Word of God lives and abides forever.
 - (3) The Scriptures are never out of date and never inappropriate.
 - d) The value of the Scriptures:
 - i) The Scriptures are precious.
 - (1) Psalm 19:10
 - (2) We cannot love God without loving His Word.

- (3) Greater than gold is the Word of God.
 - (4) We ought to love the Word of God.
 - ii) The Scriptures are protective.
 - (1) Psalm 19:11
 - (2) Protection is far better than cure.
 - (a) There are many hurts and failures that we would be kept from if we would only let the Word of God lead us.
 - iii) The Scriptures are profitable.
 - (1) Psalm 19:11
 - (2) We cheat ourselves out of an incredible blessing by not loving the Word of God.
 - e) The written Word of God, given by inspiration of Almighty God, speaks to us.
- 4) THE CONVICTING WORD OF GOD IN THE HEART (PSALM 19:12-14)
- a) Psalm 19:12-14
 - i) This is a prayer to the Holy Spirit.
 - ii) We see objectively that God exists, then we learn from the Word of God the truths of His Word, but the Holy Spirit of God must make all of this real in our hearts.
 - b) The convicting Word of the Spirit:
 - i) Psalm 19:12
 - (1) We have moral earthquakes because we have secret faults.
 - (a) We don't know what's beneath the surface.
 - ii) Our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, so we need the Holy Spirit of God to bring conviction of sin.
 - (1) Jeremiah 17:9
 - iii) John 16:8
 - iv) We will never understand the depth of our sin, nor will we ever truly be convicted of that sin without the convicting Word of God from the Holy Spirit.
 - v) God wants to speak to your heart today.
 - (1) Don't let your heart get hard.
 - (a) You can believe intellectually in God and still go to Hell unless you let the Word of God come into your heart.
 - c) The cleansing Word of the Spirit:
 - i) Psalm 19:12
 - ii) We cannot know God personally and intimately if there is sin in our hearts and lives.
 - iii) The Holy Spirit cleanses us through the atoning blood.
 - (1) 1 John 1:9
 - d) The control of the Spirit:
 - i) Psalm 19:13
 - ii) We should always be cognizant of two things:
 - (1) The possibility of secret faults

- (2) The danger of presumptuous sin
 - (a) It is one thing to slip into sin and another thing to stumble into sin.
 - (b) We need to pray for God to keep us from presumptuous sin.
 - (i) Presumptuous sin is where we know that a thing is wrong, but we do it anyway.
- e) The communion of the Spirit:
 - i) Psalm 19:14
 - ii) God put His Word in the heavens, we hold His Word in our hands, and He sends His Word into our hearts so that we might walk and talk with Him and that the meditation of our hearts will be acceptable in His sight.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Psalm 19:7
- b) It is not the amount of sin that condemns us but the fact of sin.
- c) We are all sinners.
 - i) Romans 3:23
- d) God put His Word in the heavens.
- e) God put His Word in our hands.
- f) God put His Word in our hearts.
- g) An intellectual can believe in God, but you don't have to be an intellectual to believe in God.
 - i) A little child can believe.
- h) We need to lay our intellectual pride in the dust and ask the Lord to speak to us.
 - i) When He does speak, obey Him.
- i) Don't wait until you have it all figured out before you come to Jesus.
 - i) Come to Him today.
- j) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- k) 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.
 - i) Romans 10:9-10
 - ii) Romans 10:13
 - iii) Acts 16:31
 - iv) John 3:16