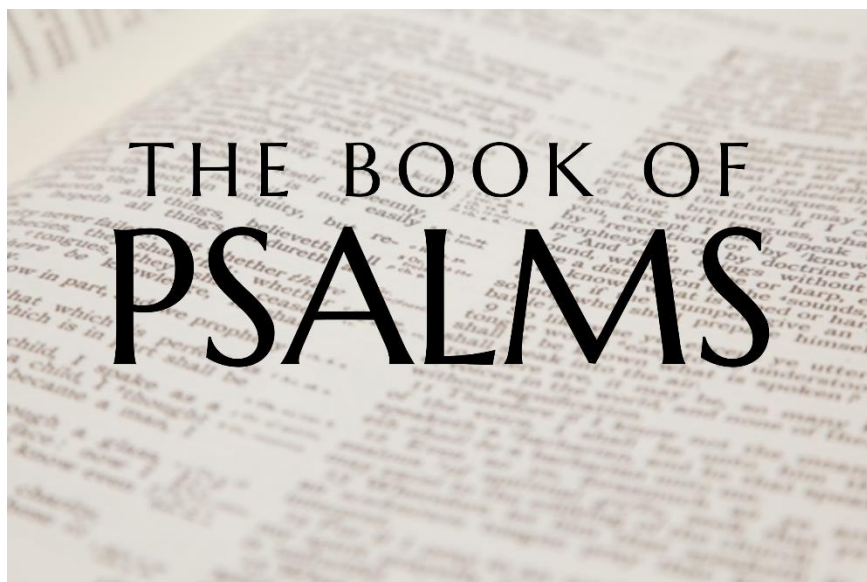


Daily Worship Booklet

May 12th – May 16th, 2025



God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law, day after day, and the people of God were filled with joy.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 28: Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

Answer: Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Scripture Proofs:

1 Corinthians 15:4; Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:11; Ephesians 4:8;

Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:33-34; Hebrews 1:3; Matthew 16:27; Acts 17:31.

Comment: There are a number of parts to the exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ by God the Father.

1. In his rising from the dead.
2. In his ascending into heaven.
3. In sitting in authority at the right hand of God.
4. In his being appointed Mediator King, because of his obedience in fulfilling all the commands of the Father, to judge the world.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 147A. The words are on page 8.

Please pray for:

Mon - Larry & Leah Sinardo

Tues - David & Evelyn Sinclair

Wed - Sheldon & Pam, David, Jonah & Simon Smit

Thur - Sam Sutherland

Frid - Johannes Tiukuvaara

Bible Question for the week:

1. What are the names of Isaac and Rebekah's twin boys?

Answer - Genesis 25:26

2. What did Esau sell to Isaac and for what?

Answer - Genesis 25:33

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.

We have studied Psalm 19 before, but this is a wonderful Psalm with some very significant truths about creation and the Word of God. To give the Fellowship Groups another week to complete the book of Philippians, we will study this psalm this week before starting a new book.

The notes are written by Rev. Dr. Tim Donachie.

Monday - Psalm 19:1-6 - God Reveals Himself.

The great commentator and preacher, Matthew Henry says that in Psalm 19 we are dealing with the two great revelations that God has given to man: the book of nature, in which to read the power and Godhead of the creator; and the book of the Scriptures, which shows the will of God concerning our duty.

The apostle Paul reminded the believers in Rome that men had no excuse if they did not know and worship the sovereign God because “For his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20). In a world that ignores God and despises His Word, it is good to be reminded that God's power, glory and work can be seen in the heavens, as David says in Psalm 8. The view that he had of the starry host was sufficient to cause him to break out in a great song of praise to the God that created it. Not only so, David also states that this revelation of God is not just something that He gave to man when He brought the creation into being, but that He is constantly revealing Himself through the glory of the created world - he says in verse 2 that no day passes in which God does not give evidences of His power and glory; and then, that as day follows day and night follows night, there are fresh proofs of the existence and the perfections of the sovereign God. This is so not only in those lands where the gospel is known, but it extends to the whole world of men, and speaks with such a powerful voice that it leaves men without excuse if they do not acknowledge the Lord.

The universe did not come into being by some random chance event, but by the determined will and purpose of Almighty God, to create a universe that would proclaim His glory, even when polluted by sin.

Questions

- Q1. Why are people without excuse, even if they have not heard the Gospel?
- Q2. How should Christians treat the world in which they live?
- Q3. How is God's glory reflected in the creation?

Memory Verse

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” Psalm 19:1

Tuesday - Psalm 19:7-10 - God's Special Revelation.

Although man is left without excuse if he does not recognise and glorify God through His revelation in the created universe, God is so gracious that He did not leave man with only that revelation; but also provided a more specific revealing of Himself and His way by speaking directly to His creatures. In the garden of Eden, God had given everything that Adam and Eve needed for a full and happy life in the presence of God. They lived in the garden and enjoyed fellowship with the creator; but even with the beauty of the unfallen world, there was still need for God to speak to man in a more specific way, that they might know how to live to please Him. Just after the creation of man, God told them to 'be fruitful and multiply', to 'have dominion' over the rest of creation, and He told them what He had given them for food (Genesis 1:28-29). So that he would know exactly what he must do and what he must not do in order to please God, God gave Adam further specific instructions concerning the one tree in the garden from which he was not to eat (Genesis 2:16,17).

The pattern in the Garden of Eden is the pattern that God has used since the fall of man. God has always given instructions to mankind so that they might know Him and to walk in His ways, and that is what the second half of Psalm 19 is all about! The revealed word of God is set out and described in verses 7 to 10 by six different words that have six differing characteristics and produce six particular effects.

It is a matter that should bring great joy to the child of God that the sovereign God should condescend to sinful men and be pleased to communicate with them at all, let alone by giving them precise and detailed instructions about how men and women can know the Lord and how they can love and serve Him. In the next couple of days, we will consider the details of this gracious revelation that God has given to us.

Questions

- Q1. How can we have a better understanding of what God requires of us?
- Q2. How does God speak to His people now?

Memory Verse

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Psalm 19:1

Wednesday - Psalm 19:7, Psalm 119:137-144 - Instruction and Testimony.

The first word used to describe the revelation of God in His Word is 'law', and the second is 'testimony'. This does not just refer to the Ten Commandments or, indeed, the Torah, but rather has the meaning of instruction or direction, and encompasses the entirety of the scriptures. The Word of God in both Old and New Testaments has been given to enable men and women to know God and His salvation, and to walk in His ways day by day.

That the Word can do that is made clear by the characteristics assigned to it; it is perfect, and it is sure! There is no falsehood nor error in the law of the Lord; it always tells the truth and always leads those who read it, and believe it in right and honest ways. Not only is the Word of God error-free, but it is also whole and complete. It tells us everything we need to know about God and the Lord Jesus Christ. It instructs us regarding sin and teaches us about the true nature of humanity. It is no wonder, then, that the psalmist speaks of the effect of the law of the Lord in that it 'converts or restores the soul'.

We are told by Paul in Romans 10:17 that 'faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God', and when he spoke to the Ephesian elders at Miletus, he told them of the restorative power of the Word when he said, 'I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified'. Therefore, the perfect law of the Lord can save the sinner from his sin and lead him to a knowledge of the truth; it is also able to bring the backslider back from his wandering away from the Lord, and to build up the believer in his faith. No wonder the psalmist says, 'God's law is perfect and converts the soul in sin that lies.'

Questions

Q1. What does 'law' mean in the psalm?

Q2. How does the law of the Lord build up believers in their faith?

Memory Verse

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Psalm 19:1

Thursday - Psalm 19:8; Psalm 119:129-136 - Light in Darkness.

In the world we live in, there is more information available to the average person than ever before through the various types of media that have proliferated in recent years. There has also been a rise in 'fake' news, making it difficult to determine what is true and what is false in what we read, see, or hear. Honesty and truthfulness are no longer as evident in society as they once were. Even the laws or the statutes passed in parliaments lead to increasing moral darkness rather than light. In verse 8 of the psalm, David draws our attention to statutes or ordinances that are right, and commandments that are pure and holy.

In contrast to the corrupt or perverted precepts of men, those that come from God are 'right' and 'pure' because they are expressions of His absolute rectitude and His impeccable holiness. For the child of God, the statutes and commandments of the Lord are not burdensome nor tiresome, but joyful and pleasant because they remove from him the darkness of error. There is no doubt that the modern world is morally a very dark place, and things that were once considered abhorrent and immoral are now regarded as normal, with all beliefs being considered equally valid.

The Christian rejoices, however, that God has not left His people to stumble in the darkness but has shown them exactly what He requires. God's law teaches the Christian what he must believe; he does not have to study great amounts of philosophy or compare one set of religious beliefs with another to come to the truth, for it is laid out plainly and simply in the Word of the Lord. It teaches him what he must do and what he must shun if he is to please God. In a world of shifting morality, where society has no absolute moral standards, and good is called evil and evil good, the believer can rejoice because he does have an absolute and unchangeable standard by which he can regulate and judge his behaviour.

Questions

- Q1. Why is the Word of God called 'straight'?
- Q2. Why does the Word 'rejoice the heart'?
- Q3. What must we do so that we do not walk in darkness?

Memory Verse

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Psalm 19:1

Friday - Psalm 19:9-10; Proverbs 9:1-12 - The Fear of the Lord is Wisdom.

Not many people would consider fear to be something desirable, and in the sense of terror, that is absolutely true; but the Word of God does say that it is a good and necessary thing to fear the Lord. The Scriptures teach men and women that God is to be feared and how that fear is to be manifested. The fear or reverence of God is brought about through the eternal 'clean' or holy word, through its true and righteous judgments. When the holiness of God and the utter sinfulness of man have been understood through the Word, the immediate reaction should be that of the prophet Isaiah when confronted with the overwhelming holiness of God: "Woe is me, for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." (Isa 6:5, NKJV). That fear, however, is not terrifying, but a recognition of the majesty and glory of God, and a desire to serve and obey Him as sovereign, as Saul of Tarsus realised on the road to Damascus, "So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?'" (Acts 9:6, NKJV).

So valuable is the law of the Lord and the godly fear that it can produce in the life of a man or a woman who accepts it and lives by it, that it is compared in verse ten in its preciousness to the finest gold, and in its sweetness and desirability to the finest of gold. The richness and sweetness of the Word compared to the good things of the world is well summed up by William Plumer in his commentary, "Wealth can heal no wounded spirit, cheer no sinking soul, give hope to no desponding mind, defend against none of the worst ills of life, point no weary traveller to the way of rest, give no assurance of happiness beyond the grave. God's Word can do all these things, and a thousand times more".

Questions

Q1. What do you understand by the 'fear of the Lord'?

Q2. How can you show the preciousness of the Word of God?

Memory Verse

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Psalm 19:1

Saturday - Psalm 19:11-14 - The Warnings from the Word.

The psalmist opens this short section by reminding his readers that one of the purposes of this precious and sweet Word is to warn against sin, and then to encourage believers in obedience by pointing to the blessing of the Lord granted to the faithful. He acknowledges that sin, in its very nature, is deceitful, and the child of God often fails to recognize when he does sin against the Lord. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

It is always good to remember that no matter how hard we try, we fail to understand our errors because the evil one is subtle and easily outwits us, and causes us to sin, even when we do not want to; as Paul says in Romans 7:19, "For I do not do the good that I want; but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing." So, the psalmist prays that God would cleanse him from secret faults, but not only so, he goes on to admit that, as well as the secret sins, there are those that he calls 'presumptuous', sins which could easily have dominion over him. It is a sad fact that believers have besetting sins; things that would have no attraction for one believer can be beguiling for another. Therefore, the psalmist prays for protection from these kinds of sins. The Christian should develop the habit of self-examination so that he will more easily be able to identify these besetting sins, confess them and repent, so that he may 'be blameless, and innocent of great transgression'.

The Psalm ends with the desire of the psalmist to live a life of holiness before the Lord. If the thoughts of our hearts are pure and the words that we speak are acceptable to the Lord, then we shall live a life that conforms to the Word of God, and thus pleasing in the sight of the holy God.

Questions

- Q1. What rewards come to those who keep the law of the Lord?
- Q2. Why does the psalmist ask for cleansing from secret sins?
- Q3. Why is self-examination so important?

Memory Verse

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Psalm 19:1

Psalms 147A

1. Sing Hallelujah! O how good
To praise our God with song!
For it is pleasant and is right;
To Him all praise belongs.

2. The LORD builds up Jerusalem,
Brings Isr'el's exiled sons.
He binds up all their wounds and heals
The broken-hearted ones.

3. He counts the number of the stars;
He names each one of them.
Our Lord is great in pow'r and might
His wisdom has no end.

4. Those humbled low the LORD will raise;
He casts the wicked down.
O praise the LORD our God with thanks;
With harp His praises sound.

5. He covers all the sky with clouds,
Makes rain for earth below;
He is the One who makes the grass
Upon the mountains grow.

6. Food for the cattle He provides,
And all their need supplies;
He also feeds the raven's young,
And hears their hungry cries.

7. In strength of horse or speed of man,
The LORD takes no delight;
But those who fear and trust His love
Are pleasing in His sight.