

# CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

20 October 2018



*WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE?*

***Psalm 19 New International Version (NIV)***

***Psalm 19[a]***

***For the director of music. A psalm of David.***

- 1 *The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*
- 2 *Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.*
- 3 *They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.*
- 4 *Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.*  
*In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.*
- 5 *It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.*
- 6 *It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.*
- 7 *The law of the Lord is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.*  
*The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.*
- 8 *The precepts of the Lord are right,  
giving joy to the heart.*  
*The commands of the Lord are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.*
- 9 *The fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever.*  
*The decrees of the Lord are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.*
- 10 *They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.*
- 11 *By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.*
- 12 *But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.*
- 13 *Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.*  
*Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.*
- 14 *May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

***Footnotes:***

*Psalm 19:1 In Hebrew texts 19:1-14 is numbered 19:2-15.*

*Psalm 19:4 Septuagint, Jerome and Syriac; Hebrew measuring line  
New International Version (NIV)*

*Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica,  
Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

# PSALM 19

## THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD

### INTRODUCTION

“The Christian faith recognizes two ways in which God has made his revelation to us: through nature and through grace. ‘Through Creation and through Holy Scripture’ is another way of saying the same thing. These are the two means that God has given us through which to know Him.” (Reardon, 35)

Psalm 19 is divided into two sections. The first section, verses 1-6, talks of how creation speaks to us of the glory of God. The second section, verses 7-14, likewise affirms that the Law (Torah) reveals God’s glory to us. Through these two things, God reveals himself to everyone.

1. Please read the attached copy of Psalm 19 from the NIV. It may also help to read it in another version of the Bible if you have it with you. May I suggest that you read it through 3 or 4 times?
2. Close your eyes and let the flow and the content of the words sink in. In your mind, focus on the word pictures that the writer is trying to create.
3. Meditate for a while on the greatness of God, how God reveals himself to you and how God reveals himself through this psalm.

### THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD    VV 1-6

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. As we read these verses we cannot help but have a vision of the vastness of God’s creation with its heavens, beyond our comprehension, the sky that goes on forever and the sun and moon that rules the vast space above. They speak to us of things that are far too great for words.

1. What kinds of things do the heavens declare?
2. What kind of message is God trying to get across to us through his creation?

### THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT    VV 7-11

“What God reveals in nature, He also reveals in his Law. Thus, when he turns to God’s Word in the Torah, man finds order and truth and justice and wisdom and holiness.” (Reardon, 35)

1. How might we understand the “Law of the Lord” from a New Testament context?

2. Consider the verses 7-9. How is each of the statements contained in these verses true?
3. Read Romans 10:18: What is Paul saying about the gospel? How might this passage be connected to Psalm 19?

#### CONCLUSION: THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH

1. Reflect on verses 12-14. How do you respond to God's glory?
2. Compose a prayer using these verses as a template. That is, follow the theme of the psalmist in these two verses and compose a prayer using your own words.
3. Any other thoughts?

#### Resource:

Reardon, P.H., *Christ in the Psalms*, (Ben Lomond: Conciliar Press, 2000)