

“The Sufficient Scripture”

Psalm 19:7-11

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. C.S. Lewis said of Psalm 19- “It is the greatest poem in the psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.”
 - 1. Psalm 19 is one of my favorite Psalms
 - 2. Its theme is the self-revelation of God
 - 3. What do I mean by “the self-revelation of God?”
 - a) David puts God’s self-revelation into two categories:
 - 1) The general revelation of God in creation (vv.1-6)
 - 2) The special revelation of God in Scripture (vv.7-11)
 - a. I believe the Bible is God’s greatest revelation to man.
 - b. In Psalm 19:7-11, we have perhaps one of the greatest summations of Scripture in all the Bible.
 - c. It speaks of Scripture’s inspiration, inerrancy, authority, clarity, and sufficiency.
- B. In this text, David makes six statements about Scripture, and each statement contains three characteristics.
 - 1. What it’s called (its titles) (vv.7-9)
 - 2. What it will do (its power) (vv.7-9)
 - a) The phrase, “of the Lord,” appears six times
 - b) So, Scripture is God’s written Word
 - 1) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - 2) (2 Peter 1:20-21)
 - c) Illustration- “The Devil is always trying to blow out the light of Scripture.” – Thomas Watson
 - d) Illustration- Satan said, “Yea, hath God said?” (Genesis 3:1 KJV)

II. David’s Six Statements about Scripture (Psalm 19: 7-9)

- A. The solemnness of the charge (v.1)
 - 1. “Charge” is a solemn mandate that must be obeyed
 - a) Illustration- Courtroom
 - b) It’s the pastor’s highest priority

III. The Reason to Preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

- A. “The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (v.7)
 - 1. Its title (the Law of the Lord)
 - a) It’s God’s law for life (the Ten Commandments)
 - b) The Bible is God’s manual for life (its authority)
 - 2. Its nature (it’s perfect) (v.7)
 - a) “Complete” or “comprehensive”
 - b) “All-sided”
 - c) Its sufficiency

- d) It is all we need
 - e) “Doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16)
3. Its power
- a) “Converting the soul” (v.7)
 - b) It’s converting or restoring the soul
 - c) It’s the total transformation of the inner person
 - d) “Bringing back” (Psalm 23)
 - 1) The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to convict us of sin.
 - 2) “So then faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).
 - 3) “Having been born again, not of...” (1 Peter 1:23)
 - 4) It’s the starting point
 - 5) You must be born again (John 3)
 - e) Why do we preach the Word?
 - 1) It’s the only way lives are transformed
 - 2) The Spirit of God, through the Word of God
- B. “The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple” (v.7).
- 1. Its title (the testimony of the Lord) (v.7)
 - a) It’s God’s own testimony or witness (to bear witness)
 - b) Self-revelation about His person, nature, or character
 - 1) We discover God in His Word
 - 2. Its nature (“is sure”) (v.7)
 - a) “Reliable” or “trustworthy”
 - b) It’s inerrant or incapable of being wrong
 - c) The Bible is God’s Word
 - d) God cannot lie, so the Bible cannot lie
 - e) What Scripture says, God says, through human agents and without error
 - 3. Its power (what it does) (v.7)
 - a) “Making wise the simple” (v.7)
 - 1) “Simple” in Hebrew described a person with a simple mind or a simpleton
 - 2) The root idea was that of an open door
 - 3) It’s a person who was indiscriminate or who lacks discernment
 - 4) The Bible will make you wise about life.
 - a. Illustration- Marriage, parenting
 - b. (Psalm 1)
 - c. It makes you skilled in the art of daily living
- C. “The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart” (v.8)
- 1. Its title (“the statutes of the Lord) (v.8)
 - a) “Precepts” or “God’s principles”
 - 2. Its nature (“are right”) (v.8)
 - a) The right path
 - b) “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).
 - 3. Its power (what God’s Word will do) (v.8)
 - a) “Rejoicing the heart” (v.8)
 - b) It’s the path to joy.

- c) “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart” (Jeremiah 15:16 KJV).
 - d) “Let the word of Christ dwell in...” (Colossians 3:16)
 - 1) Word-filled and Spirit-filled (Ephesians 5:18)
 - 2) “Thy testimonies...are the rejoicing of my heart” (Psalm 119:111 KJV).
- D. “The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes” (v.8)
 - 1. Its title (“the commandment of the Lord”) (v.8)
 - a) Not a suggestion. We must obey.
 - b) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ...” (Ephesians 5:25)
 - 2. Its nature (“is pure”) (v.8)
 - a) It’s clear
 - b) Clarity of Scripture
 - c) We can understand the Bible.
 - 1) “Study to shew thyself approved unto God” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV).
 - 3. Its power (“enlightening the eyes”) (v.8)
 - a) It helps you see and understand in this dark world.
 - b) The Bible gives you an eternal perspective.
 - 1) “The entrance of thy words giveth light” (Psalm 119:130 KJV).
- E. “The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever” (v.9)
 - 1. Its title (“the fear of the Lord”) (v.9)
 - a) The Bible teaches us how to fear the Lord and worship Him.
 - 1) “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).
 - 2. Its nature (“is clean”) (v.9)
 - a) It has no spot. It is holy.
 - 3. Its power (“enduring forever”) (v.9)
 - a) It’s unchanging, immutable, and eternal.
 - b) Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words...” (Matthew 24:35)
 - c) The Bible’s relevance
 - d) You can build your life upon the rock of Scripture.
- F. “The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether” (v.9)
 - 1. Its title (“the judgements of the Lord”) (v.9)
 - a) God’s Word is the final authority.
 - b) It’s God’s verdict on all matters.
 - c) Important in the world today (relativism)
 - 2. Its nature (“true”) (v.9)
 - a) Jesus said, “Thy Word is truth” (John 17:17 KJV).
 - 3. Its power (“and righteous altogether”) (v.9)
 - a) It brings about a comprehensive righteousness.
 - b) Only God’s Word has the power to transform your life.
 - c) “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when you received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God which effectually worketh also in you that believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13 KJV).

IV. How Should We Respond to God’s Word? (Psalm 19:10-11)

A. Desire God's Word (v.10a)

1. "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:1-3 KJV).
2. It's our greatest possession.

B. Delight in God's Word (v.10b)

1. "The blessed man" (Psalm 1)
2. It's our greatest pleasure (sweeter than honey)

C. Be a doer of God's Word (v.11)

1. "Keeping of them..." (v.11)
2. It warns us ("it's our greatest possession")
3. It rewards us ("it's our greatest profit")
4. "Be ye doers..." (James 1:22-25)

V. Conclusion

A. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to transform the man of God into the image of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1. David's closing prayer
 - a) "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." (v.14)
 - b) How?
 - 1) By God's Word