



Sunday, September 2, 2018

Pastor Tim Van Loh

Intro to Psalm 19

Psalm 19 is a beautiful reminder that God is always addressing His creation. In a culture that harbors so much confusion about God—whether or not He exists, or whether He would actually reveal Himself to us if He did exist—we must remember, to quote a theologian from the 20th Century, that He is there and He is not silent. What’s more, He has not spoken softly as in a corner. His glory can be seen in what He has created, and the Bible is the most widely-distributed book of all time.

The challenge for us in light of these truths is to remember that we must devote ourselves to observing and appreciating the glory of God in creation—even a “smudged” creation. Additionally, we must devote ourselves to the regular intake of the Bible—reading, hearing, discussing, etc. Even more than that, we must devote ourselves to rightly responding to its teaching. If it is information, we must believe it. If it is a promise, we must trust it. If it is a warning, we must heed it. If it is a command, we must obey it. The Bible is glorious, so we must respond in an appropriate manner.

Context

Psalm 19 echoes many of the same themes from Psalm 18. In that psalm, David reflects on how the LORD delivered him from Saul, who was chasing him in order to kill him. Interestingly, David uses vivid images from creation (the heavens, the seas, the mountains, smoke, fire, etc.) to describe the deliverance that the LORD worked for him. Then, he turns and describes his response to the LORD’s salvation and discusses the immense value of God’s word in sustaining him. It is as if, having worked through his own experience, David turns and reflects more universally on how creation displays the glory of God and on the character and effectiveness of God’s word in Psalm 19.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Psalm 19

Main idea: God speaks loudly and clearly to us so that we can respond humbly to Him.

- I. God speaks loudly to us through creation (1-6)

- II. God speaks clearly to us through His word (7-11)

- III. We must humbly respond to Him (12-14)

Discuss

- 1) What is the most beautiful place you've been on earth?

- 2) What is it about creation that should direct our thoughts to God?

- 3) It is clear from this psalm that David delights in God's word. Would you say that you delight in God's word? How do you know?

- 4) Pastor Tim talked about "competing voices" in our culture that seek to lure us away from the truth of God's word. How does God's word help you filter out the "competing voices" in your day-to-day life?

- 5) Two other things Pastor Tim said were very striking. One, God is always speaking to us in His word. Two, we should respond humbly to what He says. What would a humble response be to Psalm 19?