

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 19:1-14 (NASB)

- ¹ The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
² Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.
³ There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.
⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,
⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.
⁶ Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.
⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.
¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹ Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.
¹² Who can discern *his* errors? Acquit me of hidden *faults*.
¹³ Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.
¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19: The Works and Words of God

Psalm 19 has been admired for its exquisite poetry, its comprehensive thought, and its moral lessons. It first speaks of God's glory in the heavens, and then of His glory manifested in His law. This psalm is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a song of celebration of the gladness and glory of the morning which give silent testimony of its Creator. What a beautiful and meaningful way to begin the day! David was prepared for whatever he might experience in duties, temptations and sorrows. The preciousness of God's Word provides us with refreshment.

Verses 1-6 are natural revelations of God. We can receive information about God from nature. God's craftsmanship in the heavens is awesome. We can be sure that this universe had a Creator.

Paul says in [Romans 1:20](#) *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”* Nature reveals a Creator God.

[Verses 7–11](#) are special revelations of God. Information about God is directly available to mankind through the special means of God’s written Word. **Four synonyms** for God’s Word are used in [verses 8–9](#): **law, testimony, statutes, and commandment.**

The purpose of the Word is given in [verse 7](#): to convert the soul and make wise the simple. Converting implies turning to a useful purpose. God desires to perfect mankind through His Word, not spoil one’s fun, but enable life as God intended. We can know God exists through nature’s revelation but we cannot truly know God until we read His Word. His nature is revealed through the Word.

In contrast to the celebration of the glory of the Lord as was manifested in the heavens, David also celebrated the law of the Lord. It is full of life and healing.

Things of God are precious and sweet ([verse 10](#)). God desires to set each of us free to truly live as He created mankind to live. He provides His Word as a pattern that is right and pure and clean and true. The Word also keeps us from trouble ([verse 11](#)) and promises great reward. With that description, isn’t God’s Word desirable?

We must know, as David did, that the Word searches and tries the heart. It reveals the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man. Let us pray: *“Cleanse me from secret faults.”* Forgiveness is given for two kinds of sin according to [verses 12–13](#): **secret (sins of which one isn’t aware) and presumptuous (willful sins that seek to master).**

[Verse 14](#) is a fitting response to God’s revelation of Himself. We seek to honor Him in words and thoughts. We are concerned not only with what others know from our words but also with what God knows about our inner hearts. Christians are prompted by the Holy Spirit to say pure words and think pure thoughts to honor Jesus who is our strength and redeemer.