

The God who speaks

Introduction

Psalm 19 presents the reader with three fundamental truths, truths that undergird everything else as far as a life of faith in God is concerned. The first of these truths, an assumed truth in the psalm, is the fact that God exists. The second truth is that this God who exists is also a personal God, a God who makes Himself known to people and who can be known by us. According to Psalm 119, God makes Himself known in two ways. First He makes Himself known through His creation. In Psalm 19vs1-6 we are told that creation itself declares that God is God and that God is glorious. But in the following verses (Psalm 19vs7-11) we are told that God has also made Himself known by giving us His Law, that is, His written word. These two revelations of God, general revelation in creation and special revelation in Scripture, together enable us to know all that we can know *about* God but they also help us to actually *know God*. In New Testament terms, these twin revelations of God, general and special, find a meeting point in God's ultimate revelation of Himself, the Word become flesh in the Lord Jesus Christ (see John 1vs1-14).

But Psalm 19 also teaches us that we are able to be known by God and thus be in personal relationship with this God who makes Himself known, and this despite our own sinfulness. In Psalm 19vs12-14 the Psalmist is quick to acknowledge the reality of his own sinfulness and the deceit that is found in his heart. But he also prays that sinful though he is, his words and thoughts may in fact be pleasing to the LORD. This is only possible because the God who makes Himself known through creation and scripture is also the LORD who is the Redeemer and thus a Rock of salvation for His people.

Read Psalm19vs1-14

Investigate:

Answer the following questions from the text:

1. According to Psalm 19, what does creation teach us about God?

2. How does this compare with Paul's teaching in Romans 1vs18-20?

3. What does Psalm 19vs1-6 teach us about the extent of God's general revelation? How does the Psalm teach this?

4. What words does David use to describe the LORD's Law?

5. What benefits flow to those who read, believe and obey the Law of the LORD?

6. What response should the fact that God is there and He is not silent provoke from us? (hint: see vs12-14)

? Think it through _____

1. In what way does the New Testament apply Psalm 19 in relation to Christ and the gospel?

2. In what ways has Psalm 19 encouraged or challenged you in your walk with the Lord?