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God Speaks: The Doctrine of Revelation; Psalm 19

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Introduction - God speaks. God reveals Himself and His will to man. God speaks and has revealed everything we need to know concerning life and salvation. God speaks and has pierced through the fog of our fallenness and revealed a God-centered, Christ-exalting worldview that begins with creation, explains the malfunction and dysfunction of our present world by the entrance of sin into it, and then unfolds His great, global magnificent plan of redemption. A world where everything ends in the glory of God, and if you are in Christ, a world where everything ends in your ultimate good and abundant joy.

The doctrine of revelation is easily overlooked and neglected, and yet without it, we would be left in darkness, left to our own self-made religion, left in a world and in a life that is pure deception. Revelation is often defined as divine self-disclosure. God graciously exposes Himself. God speaks. And because God speaks, we can know Him and be reconciled to Him. Revelation is glorious, divine intervention.

As Francis Schaeffer put it, "God is there, and He is not silent." He is not the god of the Deists, who wound up the universe like a clock and sits idly by watching. He intervenes and enters His creation through revelation.

The doctrine of revelation is usually classified under two main headings, general and special. General revelation refers to creation. God speaks to all of humanity through His creation and reveals His existence. Special revelation refers to Scripture and to Christ. What makes special revelation special is that through Scripture and through Christ God reveals unto us how we can know this God who exists and how we can be reconciled unto Him. That's exactly what we find in Psalm 19, general and special revelation. God speaks through His creation and through His Word.

I. Creation: A Word of Glory (vv1-6)

A) Creation is not an extension of God nor is He within each component of creation. That's pantheism and panentheism. Rather, as Creator, He has left His fingerprint upon all of His creation, from the cosmic to the microscopic. Creation points to purpose, to design, to intelligence, to a

Creator. Especially found in His chief creation, man, who was made in His image. Every human being is an image-bearer, pointing to and arguing for the existence of God.

B) V1 tells us of the cosmic proportions of general revelation. A universe filled with galaxies, galaxies filled with planets and stars, a unique galaxy among them all known as the Milky Way, a unique planet known as Earth, filled with a unique creation known as mankind. All of it pointing to a great and awesome Creator.

1. The wonder of it all. Planets, stars and moons are floating in space, and yet they maintain their course and their rotation with such accuracy that the flight of the comet can be predicted right down to its path and timing. Balls of fire and balls of material, immeasurable in weight and yet weightless in space. Nothing to hold them up, completely suspended in air. Gravitational pull from the sun precise enough to maintain a planet's orbit, yet balanced precisely by the gravitational pull of Earth to maintain its moon, and each galaxy balanced with such gravitational precision that each one remains secluded from one another. And this is chance?
2. The very expanse of the universe tells of the glory of God. A universe that seems to be without end is a constant sign of eternity. God set eternity in our hearts and gave us a picture of it in the skies.
3. The heavens and the skies are filled with wonders, discovered and undiscovered, glorious to behold. God speaks in cosmic proportions through His creation, and He tells of His wonder and His glory.

C) V2 tells us general revelation is abundant and constant. Creation is a massive, daily outpouring of revelation, constantly pointing us to God. We are never removed from it. It is never out of our sight. The order and precision of the universe is undeniable. The intricate detail is unfathomable. Why the very fact that we can count on tomorrow's observation to be the same as yesterday is more than the ability to do science, it is the explanation of science. For there is not only the detailed accuracy and order of creation but there is also the upholding of creation, the maintaining of creation, which we call Providence. God speaks through His creation abundantly and constantly.

D) VV3-4 tells us general revelation is global, universal. That's why every tribe, nation, and tongue has a religion. Man simply cannot deny the existence of God. Our fallenness explains the variety and multiplicity of religions. But that every people have a religion and every people have a moral code testifies to the fact that God speaks through His creation.

E) VV5-6 David uses the sun as an illustration of general revelation. The sun is set in the sky as a pointer to the glory of God, and the sun makes a global, universal speech every single day.

1. The sun universally points to the glory of God to every creature, every day. What is the sun? It's a burning sphere of gas that never burns out, which provides the pull we need to keep us in orbit and the light and heat we need to survive. It has no feeding source.
2. I've been to Kennedy's grave and I've seen the eternal flame. That flame never goes out because it is fed a steady stream of gas. The sun, burning for 1,000s of years has no such feeding stream and yet it never burns out. The only other thing that burned but never burned up was the burning bush, and God is the only way to explain either of them.

F) Creation is a word of glory.

II. Scripture: A Word of Grace (vv7-11)

A) Scripture is a word of grace because it is a God-given treasure.

1. It is perfect (without error); it is sure (it is not misleading); it is right (it is trustworthy); it is pure (undefiled, uncorrupted); clean (untainted by sin); true (without deception).
2. Scripture is inspired (God-given) and infallible (without error) and is therefore entirely trustworthy.
 - a. 2 Tim 3:16 - "all Scripture is breathed out by God" - inspiration. But if Scripture was written by man, how do we know it is without error?
 - b. 2 Peter 1:21 - "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
3. God gave His Word and ensured His word and has kept His word by the Spirit, that means we can trust it, live by it, and believe it because God gave it and guarantees it! It is a word of grace.
4. Scripture is a word of grace because it is an agent of transformation.
 1. It revives the soul (raises us from being spiritually dead and numb); it makes wise the simple (replaces our false notions with truth); it rejoices the heart (it draws us to our only source of true joy); it enlightens the eyes (removes the blinding scales of sin and darkness and shines forth the glories of God).
 - a. John 8:31-32 - "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
 - b. John 17:17 - "sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
 - c. 1 Thess 2:13 - "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not

as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”

3. Scripture is a word of grace because it contains the most precious truth of all. It unlocks the mystery of salvation and opens the door to heaven.

1. It is an eternal, righteous word that sounds the warning and announces the reward.
2. David says the word of God is the most precious commodity in all the earth because it and it alone warns me of my sin and God’s wrath and opens for me the path of life.

a. 2 Tim 3:15 - “from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

III. Revelation Requires Response (vv12-14)

A) A response of crying for help. vv12-13. Creation is a word of glory that tells me you exist. Scripture is a word of grace that tells me I am not right with you but I can be - “Help! I need your help!”

B) A response of worship in lip and life, speech and heart, proclamation and devotion. v14a

C) It is a response of trusting in a Redeemer. v14b. The Word of God is special revelation because it reveals to us our Redeemer. The Son of God is special revelation because He won for us our redemption.

Conclusion - Creation tells us God is there. Scripture tells us who that God is. Scripture tells us we are separated from God because of our sin and deserve His just wrath. Scripture tells us we desperately need redemption. But thanks be to God, Scripture does not stop there. Scripture tells us there is a Redeemer, Jesus God’s own Son.