

Intro

- ~ Ps 19:1-6 show us the glory of God in creation & v7-11 show us the glory of God in his word
- ~ The heavens have a voice for God just as the word has a voice for God
- ~ The sun shines on all of God's creation just as the word shines for God in creation
- ~ The sun shines on the outward while the word shines on the inward
- ~ V5,6 – just as the sun rejoices as a strong man to run a race so the word wants to help us run the race (Heb 12)
- ~ All men feel the heat of the sun but not all men feel the impact of the word of God
- ~ The heavens declare the glory of God and the word also declares the glory of God
- ~ While creation shows us God's glory the word shows us God in a specific way. It reveals the nature, character and attributes of God
- ~ The word shows us who God is and what he expects from us

The sun is the centerpiece of our universe (v1-6)

- The heavens declare the glory of God
- The sun has a voice that speaks to us

The word is the centerpiece of our lives (v7-14)

- The written word declares the glory of God
- The word has a voice that speaks to us

~ Scripture is the sole instrument through which God has chosen to convict, convert, counsel, and comfort believers. It is the chief instrument through which God has revealed his character to the world. The Bible is a living book (Heb. 4:12a), full of divine and supernatural life, the very life of God himself. All other books are collections of dead words but not the Bible.

~ Martin Luther said, "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me." Thus, the Bible is always relevant, always fresh, never obsolete, never stagnant.

Text - Titles, Traits & Transformations

1 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul

- The Law = "to teach" and refers to any direction or instruction flowing from the Word of God that points out or indicates God's will to man.
- The first aspect of God's word in this list is that of instruction
- The description of the law is that its perfect
- Perfect = entire, integrity, complete, full, without blemish
- James picks up on this idea by telling us trials also are a means of making us complete, perfect, entire
- What we need most as fallen yet people seeking the Lord is his perfect instructions
- Converting the soul = Turning it back to God. Restoring it to right reason, or to a sound mind
- Because of the fall we've fallen from God and we need to be restored to God
- Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- Even as a child of God David needed to be restored to God (Ps 23:2) just as a cast sheep
- The scriptures are the means of restoring us to God

2 the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple

- Testimonies = Used 23 times. This word is related to the word for witness. To obey His testimonies "signifies loyalty to the terms of the covenant made between the Lord and Israel." (VanGemeren)
- Sure = faithful and true
- In a court witnesses are called to give testimony concerning certain events. It's important the testimony is true and trustworthy
- If a witness is found to be untruthful or the other attorney can discredit the character of the witness then testimony will be deemed unbelievable
- The testimony of God's word is sure
- We know the scriptures are an accurate & believable testimony of who God is and what he says in his word
- The bible is a credible witness of God

- The scriptures stand in the witness stand and say God is king, ruler, sovereign, holy, majestic, loving, gracious, merciful and true
- God's word also makes wise the simple
- Simple = foolish, ignorant, untaught.
- Simple = It refers to those who need spiritual guidance and direction, and is applicable to men as they are by nature, as untaught, or needing instruction (Barnes)

3 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart

- God's appointed mandates to guide a person
- It refers to the laws of God considered as appointed, or as the result of divine authority. The verb from which this word is derived (Hiphil) means to set over, to give the oversight, to appoint. Hence, the idea of laws, or statutes, as the result of such an appointment, or such an authority.
- Right = straight as opposed to crooked
- Our lives are crooked so they need the straight word of God
- The benefit of the straight word of God is it caused the heart to rejoice
- We see what the heart of man needs.....it needs to rejoice
- The scriptures make for a happy heart, a happy life
- The reason we can rejoice and be happy is because in the scriptures we find purpose, answers and we find meaning
- This isn't to say we have moments of discouragement and doubt but the scriptures always pull us back to the Lord
- This is what we need most in discouragement.....the scriptures

4 The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

- 18 times in Psalm 119 the Psalmist refers to God's commands
- God's commands and orders as given from him. This has to do with the right and wrongs of God's word
- The bible teaches us the positive command but also what we shouldn't do
- We must be careful not to get caught up in the prohibitions as if the Lord is stifling us or keeping us back from our "freedoms"
- If there's a prohibition then it's there for a reason. Just as parents instruct their children in prohibitions, those prohibitions are for safety, protection and guidance from harmful mistakes
- So, the word gives us prohibitions which are for spiritual guidance from carnal mistakes
- The commands are pure
- Prov 30:5 every word of God is pure
- Pure = Cleansing and purifying. Free from all stain; from all imperfection; from any corrupt tendency
- The commands purify and cleans the believer
- Here this purifying effect of the word for the believers eyes
- The eyes are cleansed and illuminated so the believer can see clearly

5 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever.

- Fear speaks of that aspect of Gods' word that evokes fear, terror, reverence, holy fear and respect for God
- Jonah 1:10 *Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.*
- Ps 2:11 *Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*
- Prov 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
- All of creation should have a awe, a holy fear of God's power and name
- Commentators also speak of how this word fear also has in it the idea of divine worship. A healthy fear of God tends toward worship of a holy God
- Clean = means properly clear, pure, in a physical sense, as opposed to filthy, soiled; then, in a ceremonial sense, as opposed to that which is profane or common Lev 13:17, and then, in a moral sense, as a clean heart, etc., Ps 12:6; Ps 51:10. It is also applied to pure gold, Exo_25:11. (Barnes)
- Enduring forever = A healthy fear of God tends toward the long haul of a healthy walk with God

- Show me a “professing believer” who doesn’t fellowship with the saints, spends time in God’s word and shows signs of spiritual growth and I’ll show you a person who doesn’t have a fear of God
- When you’re afraid of something or someone you’ll treat it or that person with respect

6 The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether

- Judgments (mispatim, used 23 times): “From shaphat, to judge, determine, regulate, order, and discern, because they judge concerning our words and works; show the rules by which they should be regulated; and cause us to discern what is right and wrong, and decide accordingly.” (Clarke)
- he judged, regulated, disposed, All God’s regulations, all his decisions; what he has pronounced to be right and proper. (Clarke)
- The word here rendered judgments refers also to the revealed truth of God, with the idea that that has been judged or determined by him to be right and to be best. (Barnes)
- Ps 9:7 God’s throne was set for judgements
- Ps 9:16 The Lord is known by the judgements he executes
- True = Stability, certainty, truth. It corroborates with truth and isn’t arbitrary at all. They support, confirm
- Righteous = To be right
- Altogether = As a unit. True and righteous as a team

Conclusion

V10 The value of the word

Wealth

- ~ Based on these descriptions the word is to be desired above gold and even an abundance of gold
- ~ David wasn’t foolish. He knew the value of gold yet he tells the word is more desirable than an abundance of Gold
- Food
- ~ It’s sweeter than honey and honeycomb
- ~ These were valuable commodities
- ~ Are we willing to trade away the world for these things? I hope not
- ~ While these are necessary things to live these things don’t transform the life of a person

V11 The warning of the word and reward of the word

Warning

- ~ Based on all these instructions the word warns the believer of a life lived without the word
- ~ The book of Hebrews has many warning passages for the Hebrew believers. Hebrews (2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12; 10:19-39; 12:14-29), verses that deliver both stern warnings and positive encouragement.
 - 2:1-4 = Take heed to what you’ve heard
 - 3:7-4:13 = Live by faith and not to be unbelieving like the OT saints did in the wilderness
 - 5:11-6:12 = Leave behind immaturity and become mature
 - 10:19-39 = An exhortation to faithfulness (approaching Christ, church attendance)
 - 12:14-29 =

Reward

- ~ There is an award associated with obeying the word