

## Psalm 19

9/15/2024

Maltbie Davenport Babcock was born in Syracuse New York in 1858. When he was about 3 years old the American Civil War broke out. He was about 7 years old when the war had ended and President Lincoln had been assassinated. We could say Maltbie grew up in a challenging time in American history. But despite this, by age 28 he had become a minister in the Presbyterian Church. And before age 43 he had left this world. Few may remember his name at this point but many still sing a hymn he wrote about what he had learned about this world and how he viewed it despite what was happening around him at the time. You like me probably recognize this song.

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--  
His hand the wonders wrought.  
This is my Father's world:  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass, I hear Him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.  
This is my Father's world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let earth be glad!

The best I can tell this is the original version of this song. Our red song book tracks well with this version except for the last verse. But the message in the song remains the same. This is God's world, God created it, God sustains it, and God's Glory is on display in it.

Some 2,800 years or so before Maltbie was born another man came into this world who would eventually become the King of Israel and write a number of songs. This

morning we will be looking into the words of one of these songs. It also speaks of this being God's world.

Psalm 19

1. *The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above (the expanse) proclaims his handiwork.*
2. *Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.*
3. *There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.*
4. *Their voice (their measuring line) goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In them he has set a tent for the sun,*
5. *which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.*
6. *Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.*
7. *The law of the Lord is perfect, (blameless)  
reviving 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 rules (just decrees) of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.*
10. *More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.*
11. *Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.*
12. *Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.*
13. *Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
let them not have dominion over me!  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent 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.*

This morning I would like for us to look at this Psalm in 3 parts .

**Part 1** declares The Glory of God's creation and this is spoken of in the first 6 verses. Here they are again -

*The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.  
Their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

How can one explain the Glory of God with words? We all have heard the saying 'a picture is worth a thousand words'. Here in this Psalm David attempts to describe this Glory of God by what can be seen around us. Paul says it this way in Romans 1:19-20 *"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*

Today we recognize that the sun is but a very small and insignificant star in comparison to countless others in the universe. Yet it was created by God to support our lives in these mortal bodies. It does so in a number of ways including warming us and providing light so we can see. And without the sun we would all soon perish. But did you notice David describes the sun as being in a tent. Peter describes his physical body the same way in 2nd Peter 1:13 *"I think it right, as long as I am in this **body**, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me."*

The word translated here as '**body**' is the Greek word meaning tent, a temporary abode.

Thus according to God's Word in Psalm 19 our sun is in a temporary abode. God was before the creation and will be after the creation ceases to be. He is the 'I Am'.

The universe is a physical manifestation of God's Glory. And mankind can not even see or find the boundaries of this universe. Nor can we count the stars as God challenged Abraham to do in Genesis 15:5.

Finally David remarks of the sun - *there is nothing hidden from its heat*. Similarly The Son of God, the Word, the Word which became flesh and dwelt among us is described

as displaying a similar quality - Hebrews 4:12-13 *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

Just as we would perish physically without the sun, we would perish eternally without the Son of God.

**Part 2** - Psalm 19:7-9 tells us 6 things we need to know, remember and observe about The Lord? I have highlighted and underlined these 6 items -

***The law of the Lord is perfect (blameless), reviving the soul;***  
***the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;***  
***the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;***  
***the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;***  
***the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;***  
***the rules (just decrees) of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.***

Next we see the characteristics of these 6 things identified above -

*The law of the Lord **is perfect (blameless)**, reviving the soul;*  
*the testimony of the Lord **is sure**, making wise the simple;*  
*the precepts of the Lord **are right**, rejoicing the heart;*  
*the commandment of the Lord **is pure**, enlightening the eyes;*  
*the fear of the Lord **is clean**, enduring forever;*  
*the rules (just decrees) of the Lord **are true**, and righteous altogether.*

Next we see the effects this can have on us if we let it. It can transform us. As Paul calls for in Romans 12:1-2 *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**”*

*The law of the Lord is perfect (blameless), **reviving the soul**;*  
*the testimony of the Lord is sure, **making wise the simple**;*  
*the precepts of the Lord are right, **rejoicing the heart**;*  
*the commandment of the Lord is pure, **enlightening the eyes**;*  
*the fear of the Lord is clean, **enduring forever**;*  
*the rules (just decrees) of the Lord are true, **and righteous altogether.***

Jesus said - *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”* Eternal life - **Enduring forever.** And *“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, **so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**”* (2nd Corinthians 5:21)

**Altogether** - Hebrew - Yachad pronounced yakh-ad meaning properly a unit-united. The will of God made known to us through His Word endures forever and can transform us and make us holy/sanctified (Hebrews 10:10), and provide a way that we can be united with Him. United as Jesus and The Father are united. They are one!

**Part 3** Tells us how we should respond to these Words of God? They should be -

- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.**
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.**
- 12 Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**
- 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
let them not have dominion over me!  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent 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.**

But sadly, as we saw in lessons I presented in the last few weeks from John chapter 6, the words of Jesus the Christ were misunderstood by many and therefore rejected. So it is today. But we as members of His body are here to share and teach the Word of God to others in hope that they may come to understand God's plan for mankind.

As the apostle Peter came to say of the things he experienced concerning Jesus - *"So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."* (2nd Peter 1:12-21)

So the next time we gaze up at the stars at night let us remember - *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above (the expanse) proclaims his handiwork."*