

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 11/20/2011

Title: "A Picture Worth a Thousand Words"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study in the Psalms" (Ps. 62:8)

Text: Psalm 19
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

1. That God Speaks

- It's His nature to speak. He condescends to our level, though we can never fully understand Him. It is kind for Him to do so. It is scary for him to speak, since it requires a response.

2. How God Speaks

- Psalm 19 outlines two ways that God speaks: Stars and Scripture, or, World and Word (1-6; 7-11). The first half is about the sky, which is shorthand for everything created. Psalm 104 speaks about animals.
- Though silent, the world is speaking: it declares, proclaims, pours out speech, reveals knowledge.

3. What Creation Says

- There is a God. He made the world. It is foolish (contradictory) to say otherwise: "It could be that at some earlier time, somewhere in the universe, a civilization evolved, probably by some kind of Darwinian means, probably to a very high level of technology, and designed a form of life that they seeded onto perhaps this planet. Now, um, now that is a possibility, and an intriguing possibility. And I suppose it's possible that you might find evidence for that if you look at the details of biochemistry, molecular biology, you might find a signature of some sort of designer." Richard Dawkins
- Creation shows many things, including God's glory, beautify, power, care, protection, and also God's joy (5). A bridegroom leaving his chamber is happy. These things aren't unclear. Job 26:14 says, "Behold, these are the fringes of his ways!" It's voice reaches far in every direction (3-6).

4. How We Respond

- There's a difference between how we should respond and how we have responded. Adam and Eve had God's command and every reason from creation to obey, but they and we reject God. Creation actually reflects the brokenness of the world in its groaning (Romans 8).
- Cornelius Van Til, a Christian apologist, said that God is broadcasting on all channels of the radio dial. If there were a channel where we could tune in and not hear God, all of us would turn there (by nature, apart from the gospel). No one seeks God (Psalm 14). By nature we ignore, outright deny, reinterpret, or deify God's creation. All of us idolize it.

5. What it Means for us

- **Watch and Wonder:** Unplug! Do vacations without internet or even cell service. Have set times (if your job will allow) where you refuse to answer the phone. Don't even look to see who's calling. If you get email on your phone, turn off the chime announcing each new email. Go for more walks, do more reading, etc. Realize revelation is not limited to "nature." God's glory is in the layers and complexities of this world, in the Sports Center Top 10, in music, justice, laughter, etc.
- **Worship:** Creation's glory is not an end in itself. It's to point us to God.
- **Word:** If we're to want God's glory, we can't stop with Creation. Calvin said that, "from nature we can know the hands and feet of God, but from Scripture we may know his heart."
- **Witness:** We want his glory to spread, for others to taste and see that He is good.

Sample Questions

- Proverbs 14:1 says that "the fool says in his heart, there is no God." Is this really true? Aren't there a lot of smart atheists out there? How does Psalm 19 help us understand why Paul says in Romans 1 that we are without excuse before God? And, exactly who, by the way, is without excuse?
- Ryan said that creation tells us about God in its beauty, but what other way does creation speak about God? It is, after all, not all beautiful right now. And how does Christ relate to this? What's role in creation and what's his role in the righting of creation (John 1; Colossians 1; Romans 8)?
- God's glory is seen in nature, but where else?
- How is your knowledge of God in creation diminished by distraction? What have you and can you do about it?