

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 11/27/2011

Title: "God's Words - Better than Gold!"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study in the Psalms" (Ps. 62:8)

Text: Psalm 19:7-14
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

The first half of Psalm 19 is about God's Word in Creation, which reaches the whole world and leaves us all without excuse. The second half is about God's Word written. Of Psalm 19, C.S. Lewis wrote, "I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world."

1. What is the Bible? (7-9)

- The Word of God: Notice the repetition, "...of the Lord." The Bible says it's God's Word. There are many confirmations of this, but there is no higher standard than God saying so. Spurgeon said, "Scripture is like a caged lion. I defend the truthfulness of the Bible the same that I would defend a caged lion. I don't need to defend the lion to prove to others that he is a lion. I simply need to let the lion out of his cage."
- The perfect law (7); A true testimony (7); Right precepts (8)
- Pure commandments (8): God's Word is clear. This doesn't mean that there aren't things in Scrip that are difficult (to interpret, understand, or believe). It means that in the Bible "the plain things are the main things; the main things are the plain things."
- True and righteous rules (9)

2. What does the Bible do? (7-8)

- It revives (7); It makes wise (7); It rejoices (8)l It enlightens (8); It produces godly fear (9)

3. How should we approach it? (10)

- There are numerous images in Scripture for what Scripture is like: food, water, milk, fire, hammer, sword, balm, lamp/light, seed, mirror.
- Prize it: Test - Would you take a stack of gold bars (worth millions), if you have to give up all Bible? Let's say, you still get to go to heaven, and you won't get in trouble when you get there for having chosen gold over Scripture, and let's say that no one knows that you made this deal. You can keep your Christian music. You can still have church (just no Bible as part of it). Would you take the deal? Could you handle it? Could you make it?
- Seek it: Seeking is implied in prizing. Do you prize the Bible more than gold or anything gold can buy?
- Taste it: This emphasizes the Bible's powerful sweetness.
- The Role of the Bible in the Christian life: Following Jesus (being a disciple) is not summed up in Bible reading. But almost everything God tells us to do has a connection with the Bible. So, with any problem/struggle (marriage, lust, materialism, doubt, fear/anxiety, etc), it's quite fair to ask the question "how's the Bible reading going?" The Christian life "doesn't rise very high without Bible, and can't fall very low with Bible." If you're not hungry for the Bible, it may be that you're not a Christian. It may be that you're a Christian who is sick and has gotten used to not eating. For you, more Bible might mean: 1) Start reading something, 2) More discipline, structure, and regularity, 3) Start memorizing key verses, 4) Join a Community Group, 5) Tread time in the Word as communion with God, 6) Bless others with it. Remember, more Bible breeds more Bible.

4. What is our aim? (11-14)

- To be directed (11); To discern (12) - Hebrews 4:12-13; To be declared innocent (12) - Not earning forgiveness, but hearing God's declaration; To be delivered (13); To be drenched in God's ways (14) - "words" and "meditation" hint at how deeply the Word means to penetrate our lives.
- Martin Luther was asked how he affected the Protestant Reformation: "I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word: otherwise I did nothing. . .the Word did it all."

Sample Questions

- Ryan's section on "The Role of the Bible in the Christian life" should be helpful for group leading.
- At Clarus '11, G.K. Beale said three things commonly discourage us from Bible reading: 1) Media immersion, 2) Busyness, and 2) Expecting the sensational. What are the discouragements for you?
- What can you do or start tomorrow to get more of the Bible in your life?