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# How Can I Know What God is Like?

Psalm 19

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## Introduction:

1. The late Bill Klem was one of major league baseball's best-known umpires. When he stood behind the plate, he was in charge of everything that mattered. He was the unquestioned authority; you didn't even challenge his authority. On one occasion, it was the ninth inning of a critical game. The batter hit the ball to left field and the runner on third base broke for home with the potential winning run. The catcher crouched to make the tag. There was a fierce collision with the catcher, the runner and the umpire all knocked down to the ground. Everyone awaited the decision of the umpire. In one dugout the players were shouting, "He's safe! He's safe!" In the other dugout, they were shouting, "He's out! He's out!" The fans were in a divided uproar. In the midst of the confusion, Kill Klem stood up, looked directly into the stands, raised his fist and shouted, "He ain't nothin' 'til I've called it." Klem was the authority and nobody was going to take that away from him.
2. We live in a day of spiritual and moral confusion
  - a. Some claim, "This is the way to live!"
  - b. Others counter, "No, this is the way!"
  - c. Still others claim that there is no one way to live, each person must choose his own way.
3. Philosophers, educators, sociologists, psychologists, politicians and even pastors offer their own speculations about how we should live
4. But what we need is not more speculation, but an authoritative revelation which tells us why we are here and how we should live

5. What we need is a sure word from God – the only thing that really matters is what God declares
6. If God calls it – that settles it
7. I wonder if David wrote the psalm early in the morning while the stars shone brightly out in the pasture
  - a. He was awed with the vastness of space and the immensity of God
  - b. Then the darkness gave way to the first rays of sunlight and a glorious sunrise was seen
  - c. Moved by the greatness of God he penned this psalm combining beautiful poetry with profound theology.
8. Anne Rand was a novelist who died some time ago. She was a professed agnostic. She was addressing an audience at Yale University and what she said was very perceptive. A reporter asked her the question, “Ms. Rand, what is wrong with the modern world?” Here is what she said, “Never before has the world been so desperately seeking answers to crucial questions and never before has the world been so frantically committed to the idea that no answers are possible. To paraphrase the Bible, the modern attitude is ‘Father forgive us for we know not what we are doing and please don’t tell us.’”
9. That is a good picture of the world today
  - a. God has spoken – He has revealed Himself to us
  - b. If God does not reveal Himself to us, then we are helpless to find out very much about Him
  - c. God is not obligated to speak to us or tell us about Himself
  - d. It is by His mercy and grace that He even speaks to us let alone reveals Himself to us
  - e. God reveals Himself in 2 ways...

## I. GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF IN THE SKY – VS 1-6

- We can tell something about an artist by looking at his work
- We can tell something about an architect by looking at his work
- We can know something about God by looking at his creation

### A. **An Undeniable Revelation – vs 1**

**1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.**

1. “Glory” comes from the word meaning “weight or worth”
2. Looking at the vastness and grandeur of the universe we see evidence of God’s weight or worth
3. If people refuse to believe in God, it is not because there is not abundant evidence
4. The daytime sky and the nighttime sky give evidence of the glory of God
5. Creation tells us that God is infinite in His power
  - a) *On a dark, starry night, look up and realize that our Milky Way galaxy has more than 100 billion stars. Then remember that there are over 100 billion galaxies just like it.*
  - b) *Look at the edge of your bulletin. Imagine that the thickness of that paper is 93 million miles – the distance from earth to sun.*
  - c) *The distance to the nearest star would be 71 feet*
  - d) *The diameter of our galaxy would equal 310 miles*
  - e) *The edge of the known universe would be 31 million miles on that same scale*
6. The heavens declare God’s glory
  - a) *What about you and me?*
  - b) *Do we declare His glory?*
  - c) *Witnessing is testifying to God’s work in your life*
  - d) *Witnessing is declaring the love of God as shown in the gospel*

## **B. An Unending Revelation – vs 2**

**2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.**

1. Day by day and night by night God's handiwork testifies to His greatness and glory -- "sheweth" = to gush forth
2. This is visual evidence not spoken evidence
3. Just as the sun faithfully and consistently rises in the east every morning and sets in the west every evening
4. So God is faithful and consistent
5. You can count on Him to keep his Word

## **c. A Universal Revelation – vs 3-4**

**3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,**

1. The revelation of God's creation goes throughout the earth
2. No matter what language one spoke, he could understand this natural revelation
3. If one chooses to ignore the revelation of creation, it is not because of a lack of evidence.
4. Many choose not to believe the revelation of creation about the existence of God – Rom 1:20-23
5. The evidence is there but people do not want to submit to God's authority
6. Just as the sun's rays shine everywhere and nothing is hid from it's heat – God is present everywhere + nothing escapes His eyes
7. Their line goes out through the earth
  - a) *God exists*
  - b) *God is eternal*
  - c) *God is all-powerful*
  - d) *God will judge those who reject Him*

## **D. A Joyous Revelation – vs 5-6**

**5** Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. **6** His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

1. The glory of God is a happy thing
  - a) *Like a bridegroom decked out in his finest clothes coming out of his room ready to be married*
  - b) *This is the happiest day of his life*
  - c) *Like a runner winning the most important race of his life*
2. He is filled with joy

## **II. GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF IN THE SCRIPTURES – vs 7-14**

- Beginning in vs 7 the psalmist changes from the world to the Word
- We see the 2<sup>nd</sup> way that God has spoken – sky and Scriptures
- Spurgeon said, “God has 2 books, the book of nature and the book of Scripture.”
- Creation tells us some things about God – but we need more
- Creation is called general revelation, Scriptures are called special revelation
- David here turns from what God has wrought to what He has written

### **A. The Scriptures are Precious – vs 7-10**

- Note the names of the Scriptures – law of the Lord, testimony of the Lord – the statutes of the Lord – commandment of the Lord – the fear of the Lord – the judgments of the Lord
- Along with each name, the psalmist tells us what they do – they are perfect – sure – right – pure – clean – true – righteous

1. They Challenge Us – vs 7

**7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**

- a) *Be reminded of the precious gift you have in the Word of God*
- b) *Law is not referring to the 10 commandments but probably to the teachings of the Word of God*
- c) *The instruction of the Lord is perfect*
  - (1) Perfect was the word used to describe a sacrificial animal that met all the requirements for sacrifice – without spot /blemish
  - (2) Anyone who talks about the mistakes of the Bible has lined themselves up with the Devil who said in the beginning, “Has God really said...?”
- d) *Testimony = witness – the scriptures are a perfect witness to the person of God*
- e) *Sure = to make firm – standing on God’s Word can make us sure and firm*
- f) *The Scriptures present God as He is*
- g) *When you know the God of this Bible, there is a stability in your life – you don’t fall apart*
  - (1) Simple – one who is easily swayed or led astray
  - (2) Wise – seeing things from God’s perspective

2. They Cheer Us – vs 8

**8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.**

- a) *Statutes are guidelines for daily living*
- b) *Right = straight, not leading down a wrong path*
- c) *When you are discouraged, depressed, the Word of God rejoices the heart*
- d) *Pure = clear, have you ever noticed that God does not stutter when He speaks*
  - (1) “Thou shalt not...”
  - (2) “Thus saith the Lord...”
- e) *We can know what pleases God - what He has laid out for us*

3. They Change Us – vs 9-10

**9** The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. **10** More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

- a) *When we see what God is like from the sky and the Scriptures, it brings about a fear of the Lord*
- b) *The Word of the Lord reveals hypocrisy and impure motives in our lives and the fear of the Lord causes us to clean that out*
- c) *Judgments = formal decrees*
- d) *David meditates on what he has written about the Scriptures then bursts forth in praise in vs 10*
  - (1) The Scriptures are worth more than gold
  - (2) The most desired food in that day was honey while it was in the comb
  - (3) God's Word is sweeter than even honey
  - (4) Remember that they did not have much of the Bible like we do today
- e) *Is the Bible precious to you?*
  - (1) If you have a choice between the Bible and gold – choose the Bible
  - (2) If you have a choice between the Bible and much fine gold – choose the Bible
- f) *Obeying the instructions in God's Word can make one righteous altogether*

## **B. The Scriptures are Powerful – vs 11-14**

### 1. They Have Power to Convict Us – vs 11

**11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.**

- a) *Thank God for the warnings in His Word*
- b) *It is better to avoid sin than to have to confess sin*
- c) *The Scripture convicts us of directions that we are headed which will end in a fall if we don't deal with them*

### 2. They Have Power to Cleanse Us – vs 12

**12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.**

- a) *Errors = sins that you slip into, not premeditated*
- b) *The Bible can reveal to us when we are slipping into sin and then it can cleanse us*
- c) *Sin is so much a part of our lives that's we might not even realize much of our sin*

3. They Have Power to Correct Us – vs 13-14

a) *Scriptures Enable Us to Prevent Sins – vs 13*

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and shall be innocent from the great transgression.

- (1) Presumptuous sins = deliberate sins or willful sins
- (2) If we give Scripture a high place in our lives, we would be surprised at how many sins they would prevent
- (3) David doesn't want hidden sins or presumptuous sin in his life

b) *Scriptures Enable Us to Please Him – vs 14*

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

- (1) This prayer ought to be on our lips often
- (2) We need to have a deep longing and desire to please Him
- (3) When the words are right and the heart is right, then the actions will be right
- (4) Sinful acts start with sinful thoughts
- (5) The average American watches 35 hours of TV per week
- (6) The average slow reader could read the Bible through in 100 hours
- (7) The Word of God is precious – it reveals God to us
- (8) It challenges us to live for Him

## Conclusion:

1. Let God's creation humble you in His presence
  - a. Lost man proudly exalts himself
  - b. Fallen man may even believe that he is a god
  - c. Try speaking something into existence and realize that you are not God
  - d. Humble yourself and submit to the awesome Creator
2. Don't let modern evolutionary theories infect your thinking
  - a. Evolution is a religious faith that allows proud man to act as his own God
  - b. It's not mother nature – it is Father God – the Creator
3. Don't worship the creation, but worship the God of creation
  - a. We are not pantheists – worshipping nature

The Bible is referred to in many different ways. We speak of it as God's Word, the Good Book, the Holy Scriptures, and the Sword of the Spirit. It is also known as the Book of books and the Living Word. Of the many titles given to the Bible, however, the one that is the most appropriate is God's Miracle Book. This is true for a number of reasons:

1. It is miraculous in its origin -- coming to us by divine inspiration.
2. It is miraculous in its durability -- outlasting the opposition of its critics and surviving the attempts of its enemies to exterminate it.
3. It is miraculous in its results -- transforming the lives of those who read
4. It is miraculous in its harmony -- agreeing in all its parts, even though written over a period of 1600 years by about 40 different authors.
5. It is miraculous in its message -- telling of many occasions when God supernaturally intervened in the affairs of men to accomplish his redemptive purposes.
6. It is miraculous in its preservation -- maintaining its accuracy and reliability down through the centuries.

Yes, the Bible is God's Miracle Book!

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