THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART

**DATE: 5/17/2015 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 19:12-14**

**INTRODUCTION**

So much of the attention we give to life … places the emphasis on the external

The public life, the life that others see

It is often well-ordered while the other is a chaotic mess

There is so much neglect of the inner man

The inner man is the private world where God desires to do His greatest work though

This psalm is divided into 3 parts

1. The Creation showing God’s Glory – **vs. 1-6**

2. The Word of God showing God’s Grace – **vs.7-11**

3. David Dealing with his heart before God – **vs.12-14**

The emphasis in this psalm is on God's Revelations of Himself in … (3 areas)

- Creation

- Scripture

- The Human Heart

The Holy Spirit sweeps us across the universe in the introduction

Then brings us down to earth in the body of this Psalm

And finally concludes with the heart of man

We look at everything around us in the opening verses

Then God pinpoints exactly what the heart of the Matter is

The Heart of the Matter is … The Matter of the Heart

Being Right with God is a Heart Matter

I’ve often stated that we need to place the emphasis were God places the emphasis (I’ve borrowed that by the way)

In the **19th Psalm** the Emphasis is on the Inner Man

After seeing the vastness of Creation

And then thinking about the Wonders of God’s Word

David concludes with this thought …

**v. 14** says **– *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer”***

I’d like to preach on that thought this morning

***“The Meditation of my Heart”***

***~~~Prayer~~~***

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “WORLD AROUND US” – vs.1-6**

We see David declaring God’s Glory in Creation

**A. God’s ‘Unmistakable’ Witness – v.1**

***“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork”***

The stars are God's oldest testament

The heavens were designed to declare the glory of God in a significant way

There is, in any night sky, God's *unmistakable* witness of Himself

**Isaiah 40:26 –** ***“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold Who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth”***

The Sun, the Moon and the Stars declare the existences of God

What someone does with that … is up to them

But it is where the Gospel begins

**Romans 1:20 – *“For the invisible things of Him from the creation …”***

David may not have known that the gospel was written in the stars …

But the very fact that they are there is …

**The ‘Unmistakable’ Witness** **of God**

**B. God’s ‘Untiring’ Witness – v.2**

***“Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge”***

… They’ve been there from the beginning

Since the day they were spoken into existence

And they have never tired of declaring …

*“that God is the Creator”*

Stars are hot and burning fires with massive stores of energy to consume

Our sun, for instance, is said to be a small star of moderate temperature, brightness, and size …

Yet is a vast powerhouse of ceaseless energy, a huge ball of very hot hydrogen fired by an extremely complicated chain of events

Astronomers report that the sun is capable of burning for billions of years without a noticeable reduction of its heat or mass

David knew nothing of proton-neutron reactions

David knew nothing of galaxies, of thermonuclear fires, of hydrogen clouds and solar flares, of radio waves and cosmic rays

He simply knew the stars were Tireless in their Testimony -

***“Night unto night sheweth knowledge”***

If the stars could speak with an audible voice they might say something like this:

*Gaze on that arch above;*

*The glittering vault admire.*

*Who taught those orbs to move?*

*Who lit their ceaseless fire?*

*Who guides the moon to run*

*In silence through the skies?*

*Who bids the dawning sun*

*In strength and beauty rise?*

The answer is …

God, the omnipotent, eternal One

They have …

**The ‘Unmistakable’** **Witness of God**

**The ‘Untiring’ Witness of God**

**C. God’s ‘Understandable’ Witness –** (read) **vs. 3-6 …**

In other words, the hosts of Heaven don’t speak with an audible voice

For they have no speech and no language

Their voice though, inaudible to the human ear, is loud and clear

Those burning pinpricks in the sky … communicate powerfully to all mankind

The Psalmist draws special attention to the sun

The sun speaks to all men everywhere without uttering a single word in their language

But there's an even greater revelation then Creation

The heavenly bodies have their place, but God places no great stock in them

In **Genesis 1** He dismisses the creation of the Sun, the Moon and the Stars in five brief words …

***“He made the stars, also”***

God's Voice of Power in Creation prepares the way for His Voice of Grace in the Gospel

**THE “WORLD” AROUND US**

**II. THE “WORD BEFORE US” – vs. 7-11**

By a process of reasoning, man can learn about the stars

All he needs is time and patience and the necessary sophisticated instruments

So God doesn't spend much time in His Word on stars

Their size and weight, density and orbits, magnitude and behavior can be measured, plotted, and explained by man

That is what astronomy is all about

There is, however, a realm beyond the ability of man to understand, beyond human reasoning, a realm in which man knows nothing …

(Unless God takes the initiative)

The witness of the stars tells us something *about* God,

But if we are ever to know God Himself …

What God is like in His *nature,* His *person,* and His *personality* …

Then God must reveal Himself … by telling us

The stars by their presents say - God is almighty, He is eternal, He is omniscient, He is a God of infinite order and immeasurable power

The Scriptures tell us God is a *Person* who loves and feels, who knows and cares and rules

So David turns from what God has *wrought* to what God has *written*

**A. God’s Word is ‘Precious’ – vs. 7-10**

God's Word speaks **to** life's greatest areas of need

It speaks with more authority and with greater insight than …

- The social scientist or the behavioral psychologist

- The materialistic philosopher or the world's religions

For it speaks with the voice of God

God’s Word is Precious because …

**1.** It Challenges us – **v.7**

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

The word **“*converting”*** is a verb and literally means *to bring back*

As the sun returns in its circuit, so God's Word returns the sinner to God

He is brought back—converted!

Wisdom replaces folly

The great function of God's Word in conversion is to enlighten a mind darkened by the world's philosophies and religions

It opposes all man-made theory with an authoritative

***… “Thus saith the Lord”***

It cuts right through to the center of the soul

The unconverted man follows his own …

…religion, philosophy, and ideology

He has his own notions about sin, self, and salvation

God's Word challenges all that

It convicts and hopefully brings men back to the point of departure from divine truth

Then it converts the soul and makes wise the simple

God’s Word is Precious because …

**2.** It Cheers us **– v.8**

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

God's Word cheers us, it rejoices the heart

Imagine having to face death and eternity without God's Word, without even so much as **John 3:16** or **Romans 10:9**

The Word of God takes away all uncertainty

It provides us guidance for today and promises glory for tomorrow

So God's Word **Challenges us** and it **Cheers us**

No wonder it’s Precious

God’s Word is Precious because …

**3.** It Changes us – **vs.9, 10**

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

God's Word has both a *cleansing* and *consecrating* effect upon us

The man who once craved for gold now craves for God

I think Zacchaeus is a perfect example – **Luke 19**

Zacchaeus was a covetous man

For financial gain he had sold his soul to Rome by purchasing the right to collect taxes

His job was to collect taxes for the gov’t

Caesar didn't care how much extra he collected

(Obvious, the extra was his pay)

So Zacchaeus waxed rich by squeezing every penny out of the poor

But then Zacchaeus met Christ … Zacchaeus was changed

Then and there he pledged away half his estate to the poor, and in addition determined to restore to every person he had wronged (400%)

Clean and consecrated, Zacchaeus changed in the presents of Jesus, the living Word of God

That is the change God can effect in any man's life

**God’s Word is ‘Precious’**

**B. God’s Word is ‘Powerful’ – v. 11**

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

The Word of God is powerful

Reading it is like working on the electric in your house and not turning it off first / Shocking

God's Word is powerful

**Hebrews 4:12 –** ***“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”***

The Word of God has an uncanny way of confronting us with our sin

The Holy Spirit uses it like a surgeon's knife to slice away all surface things and reveal the cancers of the soul

**Quote:** As someone has said – *“This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book”*

**THE “WORLD” AROUND US**

**THE “WORD BEFORE US”**

Now David brings it down to what it’s all about

**III. THE “WITNESS WITHIN US” – vs.12-14**

David asks God to receive the Meditation of his heart

David asks God to look at his motives

David realizes that God is the Great Revealer

**A. ‘Time’**

First, **if** the Meditation of our heart is to be acceptable in the sight of God

Then we must take time to be with God

For many this is a struggle

We neglect spending time with God

And it shows in our lives

It is obvious in our wrong reactions to circumstances

If the meditation of our heart is going to be acceptable to God

It is going to Take Time!

No Time with God is ever wasted

No Time spent with God and your Life will be Wasted!

The 2nd thing it is going to take in order to keep the meditation of our heart right is …

**B. ‘Truth’**

God’s Word is Truth

The Bible is more than a sermon Book

It is God’s Revelation of Himself

The Scripture not only need to be listen to, but also applied

- The Bible needs to be searched

- Scripture needs to be compared to Scripture

- The Bible needs to be memorized

- Then the Bible needs to be meditated on (thought about)

If the meditation of our hearts is going to be acceptable to God

Than it is going to take …

**‘Time’ & ‘Truth’**

If the meditation of our heart is going to be acceptable to God …

Than we must also give attention to our …

**C. ‘Thoughts’**

**II Corinthians 10:5 – *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the***

***knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”***

The meditation of the heart is the very seat of our thought life

The Lord desires us to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ

Our lives are the way they are because we are not careful to govern our thoughts by the Word of God

The Bible says in **Philippians 2:5 – *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”***

So often we fail to think with the Mind of Christ

**Philippians 4:8** gives us a list of things to think about

***“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”***

**Colossians 2:8** teaches that we are ***“spoiled”*** (robbed)

by thinking about things we should not be thinking about

***“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ”***

The world will rob us just by getting us to think about the wrong things

Let’s be careful to give attention to our Thought lives

**CONCLUSION**

It is going to take Time, Truth and Thought

To make our Meditations acceptable to God

In **Psalm 73**, David was very troubled

He tells us that he was envious of the wicked

Then suddenly, he went into the House of God and began to think about (meditate on) this situation

**Psalm 73:17 –** ***“Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end”***

(Probably by the preaching of the Word)

He said then he started to think about ***“their end”***

What is the end for the lost? Death and Hell!

There is nothing worse than dying and going to hell

You cannot imagine anything worse than that

If David was living today, he might have said it this way

*“I got my act together”*

If you were to ask him how, he might say …

*“It finally dawned on me that I was Not going to hell, and people without Christ are”*

This placed life for him in the proper perspective

We need to count our blessings

We need to come before God and say …

Lord … ***“Let the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight”***

*“Might my Heart please You dear Lord”*

**THE “WORLD” AROUND US**

**THE “WORD BEFORE US”**

**THE “WITNESS WITHIN US”**

**INVITATION**