

Psalm 19

The stars tell us about the God Who made them

¹ Look into the heavens, and study the stars. They tell the story over and over again of the glory and splendor of Jesus Christ¹, the great God Who made them. Yes, the sheer vastness of space with all of its stars and galaxies makes God's handiwork so obvious to the unbiased student of natural science that he will always come to the conclusion that there must be a God and that He must be a tremendously wise, knowledgeable, and powerful being. ² Day after day the heavenly bodies gush forth knowledge about the One Who made them, and night after night they reveal the unfathomable knowledge, wisdom, and discernment He used when He created each of them and put them in their assigned place. ³ The heavens don't actually speak a word, form a syllable, or make a sound the human ear can hear, yet they speak volumes about God. ⁴ Space has no boundaries and extends in all directions from every place on earth, yet what the stars have to tell us can be learned from any location on this planet. Our sun is merely one star among the billions of stars in space, yet God selected it and fixed it in its own unique place with respect to the orbit of our planet. ⁵ It rises each morning with the anticipation of a bridegroom when he leaves his living quarters to meet his bride on their wedding day, and it appears with all the strength of an athlete who is thoroughly prepared for his big race. ⁶ Every day it rises in the east and sets in the west. As it does, there is not a habitable place on earth where the effects of its heat are not felt to some degree.

The God Who made them tells us how to live forever

- ⁷ 1) The instructions and direction set forth by the LORD's set of regulations are absolutely perfect, and if heeded, will bring my heart back into a right relationship with God.
- 2) The LORD's own testimony of the judgment and punishment that awaits those who do not obey Him is sound advice and will continue forever without changing. If heeded, His testimony will give me sound understanding and godly discernment. It will do so even for the person who is immature and foolish enough to believe anything without verifying its source or considering the consequences of his choices.
- 3) ⁸ The responsibilities God has placed upon His people are good and appropriate for their needs, and if they are carried out God's way they will fill my mind, will, and emotions with a deep, lasting joy.
- 4) The particular conditions of the covenant the LORD made with His people are pure in every way, and if heeded, they will open my eyes to the knowledge of how to live rightly before the LORD.
- 5) ⁹ After trusting in Christ as Savior, the fear of the LORD will cause me to avoid or abandon every sinful practice. This produces a life that is morally and ethically pure and enables me to live forever;
- 6) When the LORD judges my life and finds me guilty or innocent, He is faithful and right in doing so. When He decides and administers my punishment for disobedience or bestows blessing for doing good, His choices are entirely correct.

¹⁰ Everyone who knows and practices God's Word finds it much more desirable and satisfying than any amount of the best gold the world has to offer. Yes, His Word is sweeter to the obedient believer than honey dripping from the honeycomb. ¹¹ God's Word always does two things: it warns about the disastrous consequences of disobedience, and it tells about the tremendous rewards for obeying it.

Once we see our sinfulness, we must go to God for help in dealing with it

¹² Dear LORD,

No one is fully aware of every way in which he sins against God. I have tried very hard to live purely, yet with all my best efforts there are things I have done against You that I cannot see. It is certain that You see them, so please clear me of the guilt and the punishment those sins generate. ¹³ Then, because I realize sin has such disastrous consequences, please hold me back from being so arrogant as to commit some sin I know is wrong simply because I feel I must experience it. If You will do this for me I will be blameless before both You and those around me. I will also be innocent of a great number of rebellious and offensive acts against You. ¹⁴ Please cause both my words and the things I meditate upon from deep within my heart to be the kind of things that are acceptable and pleasing in Your sight. LORD, You are my strength and the One who bought me back from sin to make me Your child. Please hear my earnest prayer and do for me all that I have asked.

¹ In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ" has been used.