

Sweeter than Honey

Psalm 19

After a short break, welcome back to growth group! This week we're tackling Psalm 19. As the title tells us, this was a Psalm composed by David the great king of Israel. As we saw in our 1 Kings series, David was a man 'after God's own heart' (see also 1 Samuel 13:14) and this led him to write many of the Psalms, which are really his prayers and praises to God. As we'll discover in the study, we are in a different position today than David was back then, but the Psalm still has lots to say to us in terms of God's goodness and greatness. Psalm 19 is a particularly poetic psalm. We don't know how it was set to music, but it must have been one beautiful piece!

Read Psalm 19

Introduction

If you had to break the Psalm into different sections, how would you do it? Give a phrase or title to each section.

What do you think this Psalm is about?

The world around us

What different ways can people view the environment?

From verses 1-4, what does creation do? Also read Romans 1:20.

When people observe creation around them, does it compel them to think about the glory of God? Why/Why not?

When you observe creation around you, does it compel you to think about the glory of God? Why/Why not?

It's interesting to note that the mention of the sun in verses 4-6 was used centuries ago to help reinforce a position that insisted, despite growing evidence, that the sun revolves around the earth, not vice versa. As always we need to understand the genre we're reading. This passage is not trying to be a scientific explanation of things. This is poetry. The point that is being made is that the sun is a pretty impressive and beautiful thing!

mpc study guide

God's word to us

Verses 7-9 are all about God's law. To help us be clear on what is being said, fill out the table over the page. The first one is filled out to help get you started.

The word for 'the law'	It's virtue	It's purpose
v7 law	Perfect	revives the soul

How would you describe David's overall attitude to the law v7-11?

The words about creation (v1-6) are beautiful and poetic. The words about God's law (v7-11) are similar in their lofty and graceful tone. So what makes v12-13 seem like a grating shift?

David speaks of the need for forgiveness. He pleads that willful sins (unwillful or unintentional sins are mentioned in Leviticus 4-5 and Numbers 15) may not rule over him. It seems that neither his God-centred perspective on creation nor even his high regard for the law is enough to make him blameless before God. God must do something in his sinful heart. God must bring about a change in him.

For us, what does God do so that sins will not rule over us and that we can be blameless? Remember Ezekiel 36:24-27 – a passage we've looked at a number of times this year!

Why can we say that the Lord is our Rock and our Redeemer?

Bible Teaching Weekend

Next week in lead up to the Bible Teaching Weekend, we'll be doing a bible study that looks at the topic of 'The Seven Deadly Sins'. Join us for the weekend as Steve Cree takes us through the bible to see *vices* we should turn away from, and the sort of *virtues* that the Spirit can work in us. The program for the weekend is:

Saturday 21 Oct: **Session 1** 530-615 / **Dinner** / **Session 2** 730-815 / **Session 3** 845-930pm
Sunday 22 Oct: **Session 4** 9am / **Session 5** 1030am / **Session 6** 715pm

Next Bible Study Series

The week after the Bible Teaching Weekend, we start a new bible study series on 2 Corinthians called 'Weakness in Power'. 2 Corinthians is a fantastic book with lots of great encouragement for us. To help you in your study of it, start reading it now.