

Practicing the Way – Centrality of God’s Word

Psalm 19:1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Psalm 19:7-14 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 Who can discern *his* errors? Acquit me of hidden *faults*. 13 Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not rule over me; then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

Reading the Bible is central to our spiritual formation.

1. God’s perfect Word restores our souls.

- Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul...
- The “law of the Lord” speaks of a rule of life.

- **God’s Word is perfect.**
 - It’s a Hebrew word that means complete, whole, sound
 - Psalm 33:4 For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all he does.

- **God uses His Word to form our souls.**
 - “restoring the soul.”
 - The Bible is our source for truth and our guide for life.
 - Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

2. God’s stable Word provides wisdom for daily living.

- Psalm 19:7 “...the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”
- Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
 - Proverbs 2:1-7 My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; 3 For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth

come knowledge and understanding. 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk in integrity.

3. Following God's Word brings joy to our hearts and understanding to our minds.

Psalm 19:8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalm 19:11 "...in keeping them there is great reward."

Psalm 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 119:15 I will meditate on your precepts, and consider your ways.

Psalm 119:93 I will never forget your precepts, for with them, you have revived me.

