

Psalm 19: God's Beautiful Law

Read Psalm 19:7-14

Psalm 19:1-6 says that our magnificent Creator God reveals Himself to every human being through the heavens spread out above us. He shows us His power, wisdom, and love through His created world.

Verses 7-11 say that this same magnificent God has also communicated His power, wisdom, and love through the law He has given us.

God's instructions for living are wonderful blessings, and these verses pour out words describing them. Notice the synonyms for this law: statutes (v.7b); precepts (v.8a); commands (v.8b); the fear of the Lord (v.9a); decrees (v.9b). (The words in this article are from the NIV translation.)

He also paints the law beautifully using a wide range of adjectives. God's law is perfect (7a), trustworthy (7b), right (8a), radiant (8b), pure (9a), firm (9b), and altogether righteous (9b).

What does this law do for us? It refreshes our entire life and inner self (7a). It makes the simple wise, giving them understanding that is beyond themselves (7b). It brings joy to the heart (8a) and light to the eyes (8b). And this law will never be outdated. It endures forever (9a).

How can we express the value of this wisdom God has shared with us? It is more precious than pure gold (10a) and sweeter than honey straight from the comb (10b). It warns us when we're on the wrong path, before it's too late (11a). Keeping this law isn't a burden but is infinitely rewarding (11b).

So how do we respond when we see God's perfect power, wisdom, and love fully expressed in this wisdom He has shared with us? We want to take full advantage of it! We want to enjoy all the blessings it offers:

- We pray that God will forgive us our hidden faults, the wrong-doing of which we aren't aware (v.12).
- We ask to be kept from intentional sins. Don't let temptation get the best of us! (v.13)
- We long to live so that every word from our mouths and all the silent murmurings of our hearts are fully pleasing to God. We pray that His perfect rightness forever rules our hearts, minds, and lives (v.14).

Lord, that is my prayer.

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