

PSALM 19 – The Revelations of God! (Part 2)

II. Special Revelation (19:7-11) – General revelation, i.e. creation, is sufficient to condemn every sinner but not sufficient to save any sinner. To save sinners, special revelation is required. That is why the preaching of God’s perfect Word is paramount. The quintessential necessity of the Word of God in salvation can never be overstated. The Holy Spirit will use the Word of God to save. He will also use the same perfect Word of God to help every believer grow and mature in Christ, for the Word of God is the milk and meat to every hungry and thirsty soul. Like water and food to the physical body, every born again believer must “eat” the bread of life which is the very Word of God. It must be noted that just because the Bible says here that the Law is perfect, it does not mean that only the Law is perfect and the others are not perfect. Similarly, when the Bible says that the commandment of the LORD is pure, it does not mean that the other aspects of God’s Word are not pure. The perfection includes the whole Bible even though the Bible had not been completed in the time of David. A wooden interpretation of the Bible must be rejected as false and belongs to the carnal mind. The following verses describe David’s view of the Word of God:-

a. The Law of the LORD is perfect (v 7a) – The Bible is called the Law here because it describes one particular aspect of God’s Word. The Law here refers to all the words of God and all the general doctrines or teachings throughout Scriptures. There are no mistakes in the Law of the LORD. The words and doctrines are perfect throughout the ages. When theologians say that the Bible is inerrant, it means that there are no mistakes in the Bible, that every jot and tittle of the Bible is perfect from the names of people to numbers to names of places. Perfection and inerrancy have no degrees – either it is perfect and inerrant or it is not. When theologians also include as infallible the meaning of the word “perfect”, it means that all that the Bible teaches are right and perfect. The Bible is without mistake in letter, words, grammar, tenses, and syntax.

Those who argue that the Bible was perfect once upon a time but today the Bible has mistakes are illogical in their reasoning. How can the Bible with mistakes reveal that there was once upon a time a Bible without mistakes? Any Bible verse that is used to defend or support this position is questioned and doubted because it could very well have mistakes! If there is error in that verse, then there could be mistakes in any verse! If they were to say that the mistakes are found only in the names of people, places and numbers, then, the question is - how do they know unless they have seen the original? If they have seen the original, then where is the original? If they have seen the original, then they should correct all the mistakes in the present existing Bible in order to restore the perfect Bible! Whatever the reasoning for this view might be, it is fallible and self contradictory! In short, it undermines the veracity of the Bible and it is another attack on the perfect Word of God. The God- honouring view is that with the evidence of a perfect Bible in the past, there is still a perfect Bible in the present! The perfection of the Bible continues on throughout the ages, for there is no period, not even for a millisecond, when there was no perfect Bible for God’s people to read and study.

Another spin and attack on the perfect Bible comes from those who assert that they have the perfect Bible today but the perfect Bible is out there somewhere and they do not know where! This is the most ludicrous reasoning thus far from the attackers of the perfect Bible, and most laughable. How could anyone with a sound mind ever believe such double talk?! To say that the perfect Bible is out there somewhere but they do not know where is equal to saying that the Bible is lost. If the perfect Bible is lost, it means that they do not have the perfect Bible! Believers need to be discerning today because of these incessant attacks on the perfect Bible by the Evil One.

The impact of this perfect Law of the LORD is that it is able to convert the soul. The word “convert” means “to bring back or restore.” The perfect Word of God has the power to bring the soul back to God. This is done by means of salvation through the Holy Scriptures. Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way for a soul to be converted. There is no other way. In the context of a believer whose soul has already been converted but still requires sanctification, then the Word of God is able to make him more and more like Christ, especially if he has gone wayward! The restoration begins with the heart. The Word of God is the only power on earth that has the ability to convert the soul thoroughly, transforming a sinner into a saint who becomes more and more like Christ, who is God.

b. The Testimony of the LORD is sure (v 7b) – The word “testimony” means “witness.” In the Bible, there are many testimonies of the lives of people such as the prophets, apostles and other men and women. But the greatest of all testimonies is the testimony of God Himself. The Bible might have been written by man in that man’s handwriting was used by God to bring about His written Word. However, based upon the revelation of God, these are really the testimonies of God. Therefore, all the testimonies in the Bible are perfect and true. They are trustworthy, hence the testimony of the LORD is “sure.” Literally it means “to establish” (Hebrew word is “amen”). It will always be sure and true. It will never deceive anyone who obeys the perfect Word of God. This guarantee is also taught in **Deuteronomy 6:24 (KJV)** “And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as *it is* at this day.”

The Word of God will plant firm foundations in the believer’s life. Matters of life and death will become absolutely clear. There are no grey areas in his life. He knows how to interpret all circumstances of life because he has the Word of God to guide him. Thus the Bible says that the testimonies of the LORD will make wise the simple. There is nothing that the Bible does not teach. When the believer studies the Bible, he will become wiser than his teachers and the ancients as well. He has discernment. He knows where to go and where not to go. He knows what to do and what not to do in life. He has the mind of Christ which is the mind of God. What a tremendous privilege to go through life in the bright light of God’s perfect Truth which is always sure.

Whatever stumps the world, the believer has the answers! He knows how the world came out of nothing by the power of God’s Word. His heavenly Father created this world. He knows where sin and death came from. He knows that if he were to die in his sins he

would end up in Hell. He also knows that he does not need to die in his sins, for there is the Saviour who loved him and gave His life for him. He knows this Saviour and calls Him his LORD. He knows the purpose of his existence which is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. He knows why he was created by God. He also knows about the future which are all certainties because his heavenly Father has revealed them to him. God has prepared his home in heaven. He is a stranger and sojourner here on this earth serving his LORD. Therefore, he must be faithful and not slothful. He knows that when he dies, he would be safe in the arms of Christ his Saviour. He has nothing to fear, not even death. He knows where he will go after death. This is the SURETY that the testimonies of the LORD, which is the whole perfect Bible from Genesis to Revelation will avail him if he obeys!

c. The Statutes of the LORD are right (v 8a) – The statutes of the LORD refer to precepts. It comes from the root word in Hebrew which means “to appoint.” These are the appointments of the LORD that every believer is to obey. They include the sacraments of circumcision and the Passover in the Old Testament, and Water Baptism and the Lord’s Supper in the New Testament. On top of these would be the many holy-days that Israel must keep such as the Feast of unleavened Bread, the Day of Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles or Booths. The entire Levitical System of sacrifices would be included here. There were many appointments that Israel had to keep for various purposes – for example, if they sinned against God or became unclean because they touched a dead body or because of child birth. All kinds of laws that belong to the statutes or appointments are included in this injunction.

The Bible says that the statutes are all right. They might be costly to obey at times, especially when it involves having to bring and sacrifice many bullocks or oxen and sheep and goats. To a farmer, these were very expensive and precious. For example, if the farmer has sinned against God, he has to deal with his sins by bringing a sin offering and a burnt offering, followed by a peace offering and a thank offering. If he does not choose to do so, then the wrath of God will hang over his head because of his sin. He risks being judged by God at any time. But God’s statutes have to be obeyed willingly from the heart as this is part of the way to holiness. When God’s people sin or are unclean, the statutes of God help to restore their relationship with God. Observance of these statutes would also keep God’s people from sinning as some of these holy days, like the Feast of Tabernacles, when kept properly would remind the children of Israel that their home is not on earth but in heaven. They are sojourners and strangers in the Land. They have an eternal home in heaven that awaits them. Living as citizens of heaven on earth would help God’s people to sin less and live more holy lives because they would not be encumbered by the things of this earth. Their heart would be focused heavenward – “for where your heart is, there will your treasure be also.”

Obedience of these statutes rejoices the hearts. The heart experiences joy that the world cannot give. This is the joy of one whose relationship is right with God. There is no barrier between the child of God and his heavenly Father. Money cannot buy such joy which comes only from obeying God’s Word and in particular, the observance of the

statutes of the LORD. They could be weekly or annual holy convocations that God has instructed His people to keep. As long they are kept with the right heart, manner of life and according to God's revealed Word, the joy of the LORD would be the strength of His people. They can go through life with happiness no matter what the outward adversities might be. Nothing can rob the believer of this God given joy!

d. The Commandment of the LORD is pure (v 8b) – The word “commandment” refers to that which God has charged man to do. It is nonnegotiable; it must be kept faithfully and urgently. God's people cannot choose to do or not to do. The Ten Commandments are included here as well as all forms of commandments. They could be stated negatively such as the “thou shalt not's” or stated positively such as the “thou shalt's.” Commandments are forceful and come down as directives from the LORD. They bind sinful man and keep them from sinning. They shine as a light to believers to aid them to live a holy life.

The commandment of the LORD is pure. This means that God's commandments are inerrant and infallible. There is no dross, not even the slightest bit. Like pure clean water, they can cleanse the soul of all filth. When the commandments are hidden in the heart of God's children, the latter will be kept pure in their thoughts, motives and life. When obeyed, they will give light to the darkened soul, mind and heart. The Bible says that God's commandment will enlighten, i.e. give light to the eyes. God's children will be able to see clearly all the sinfulness of the world. There is a transformation within God's children so that their ambitions will also be transformed accordingly. Christ's love would be the motivating factor. They will not be owned by the things of this world. They will completely avoid the sinful things that they once enjoyed and will shun those sinful places they once frequented like the plague. The church, prayer meetings and worship services now give them great joy. This is the work of God that has transformed God's children to be pure within, through the Word.