

Theme: The fundamental reality is that God exists and He is speaking to us through creation and the Scriptures, and we are called to respond in prayer and personal relationship with Him.

## I. Intro - Francis Schaeffer

- A. My practice of reading an author each year
- B. Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984) - key thinker
- C. Effectively spoke to kids of the 1960s
- D. Opened eyes of evangelicals to the importance of worldview, art, philosophy
- E. One of his foundational books - He Is There...
- F. How has God spoken to us? How do we respond?

## II. God Speaks In Creation (General Revelation)

- A. God speaks to us through creation (vv1-6)  
The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. <sup>3</sup> There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. Psalm 19:1-4
  - 1. Heavens, skies, day and night - creation
  - 2. Declare, proclaim, speech (2x), display; language, voice (2x), words
  - 3. All of these convey that God is not silent - He is speaking to us through creation constantly
- B. This is known as general revelation
  - 1. It is general because it speaks to everyone

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. Psalm 19:3-4

- a. No speech where they are not heard - to everyone
  - b. All the earth, ends of the world - everywhere
  - c. No matter when or where they live, every human is in touch with God's word in creation and is therefore confronted by the fact of God's existence. He is there and He is not silent!
- 2. It is general because it only reveals basic facts about God - He is there and we are accountable
    - a. The second section (v7-11) is far more specific
    - b. Paul teaches the same thing in Romans 1  
The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Ro 1:18-20
      - 1. Understood from what has been made - creation
      - 2. Speaks to all men, so all are without excuse
      - 3. Speaks of God's existence, power, Deity - and wrath
      - 4. General revelation speaks to all of us that God exists and that He will judge - the Law of God.
      - 5. This is fearful - and thus we try to suppress it. But every single human knows in the depth of his being that God is there, and He is not silent.
  - 3. This gives us a strong basis for apologetics and evangelism. The testimony of God is ringing out to everyone day and night!

### III. God Speaks In Scripture (Special Revelation)

#### A. God speaks to us through the Scripture (vv7-11)

The **law** of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The **statutes** of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The **precepts** of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The **commands** of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The **ordinances** of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. Psalm 19:7-9

1. Law, statutes, precepts, commands, ordinances
2. The first term 'law' is Torah - God's law/instruction
3. This whole section is about the glory of Scripture

#### B. The LORD speaks to us through the Scripture (vv7-11)

The law of the **Lord** is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the **Lord** are trustworthy, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the **Lord** are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the **Lord** are radiant, giving light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the **Lord** is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the **Lord** are sure and altogether righteous. Psalm 19:7-9

1. Note the shift from God (v1) to YHWH in vv7-9
2. The word "God" is used 1 time (v1); YHWH 6 times!
3. The focus in moving from a general knowledge that God is there to the Personal God of Scripture, Yahweh, Who reveals Himself clearly and specifically in Scripture.

#### C. This is known as special revelation

1. It is special in that it is not automatically available to everyone

2. It is also special in that its content is much more detailed and specific
3. It is from the Scripture that we learn not only the law but also the Gospel
4. This is why the written Scriptures are described in such beautiful and glorious terms  
The law of the Lord is **perfect**, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are **trustworthy**, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are **right**, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are **radiant**, giving light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is **pure**, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are **sure and altogether righteous**. Psalm 19:7-9

- a. As wonderful as God's Word in creation is, it is far surpassed in beauty, glory, and content by the written Word of God in Scripture.
- b. We should be grateful for God's word to us in creation; we should be far more grateful for His superior Word to us in Scripture.

5. God's Written Word in Scripture is far clearer and leads to a personal relationship with God through Christ

The law of the Lord is perfect, **reviving the soul**. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, **making wise the simple**. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right, **giving joy to the heart**. The commands of the Lord are radiant, **giving light to the eyes**. Psalm 19:7-8

- a. These terms point to conversion and the initiation of a relationship with God
- b. Creation can let us know God exists, we are accountable, and we have failed - the law. But Scripture not only proclaims the law even more clearly, it also proclaims the Gospel!

- c. Scripture is given that we might come to know God through Christ

From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15

1. The Scriptures make us wise for salvation - making wise the simple!
2. They point us to Christ and the salvation that is found only in Him.
3. Both creation and Scripture give us God's Law, but the Gospel is only found in God's Written Word, the Bible.

#### IV. Our Response to God's Word To Us

##### A. We must hear and heed God's Word

By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Psalm 19:11

1. God's Word warns us and promises reward
2. This is law and Gospel - warning & promised reward
3. We must give attention to both law and Gospel!

##### B. We respond in confession & prayer - relationship!

Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression. Psalm 19:12-13

1. God's law reveals our sin and its pervasiveness
2. The Gospel gives us hope that God will forgive our sins, though they are so many we can not even know them all!
3. God's Word changes us so that we desire to be kept from the dominion of sin.

4. These are descriptions of a relationship - we want to know, love, and walk with God.

5. As we walk with God we desire to please Him - not only in outward actions but even in our words and thoughts.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

- a. A desire to please God in even word and thoughts
- b. O LORD - Yahweh (7th time) I want to walk with You
- c. I have this desire because You are my Redeemer
- d. This is the effect of the Gospel - a growing desire to walk with God, know Him, and please Him

#### V. Applying the Word

##### A. Responding to God's Word personally

1. This is not about a philosophical position - it is about knowing God!
2. He is there, He is not silent - and He wants to walk with you!
3. He is there, He is not silent - am I listening?
4. This week - take time to hear God speaking!
5. This week, especially open His written Word and let it soak into you and reshape your thoughts and desires.

##### B. Sharing God's Word with others

1. He is there, He is not silent - He is speaking out to every person we meet

2. He is there, He is not silent - they can not escape His voice speaking to them
3. Deep inside they are haunted by the voice of God, and especially by His Law
4. We have the privilege to give them the Good News - God is the LORD, the Redeemer, Who will forgive their sins!
5. Let this bolster our prayers and give us confidence as we reach out to others
6. He is there and He is not silent!

#### C. Closing prayer

### He Is There and He Is Not Silent

Psalm 19  
 August 16, 2020  
 Prayer  
 Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: General revelation; special revelation; Word of God; prayer; evangelism and missions

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Go forth full of God's Word, and spread it to others! Acts 20:32

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. <sup>3</sup> There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, <sup>5</sup> which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. <sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.

<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. <sup>11</sup> By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup> Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults. <sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression. <sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19