

## Perfect Word Psalm 19

### Introduction

- Example of words or sayings that resonate and stick with you
  - Don't worry, Be Happy
  - Let Go and, Let God
  - With great power comes, Great Responsibility
  - If momma ain't happy, Nobody is Happy
  - God is good All the Time; All the Time God is Good
- Why do these words stick with us?
  - An element of truth that reinforces important principles to live by.
  - Become a mantra during trials and temptations
- Sermon Series "What is Perfection?"
  - Allusive the more we try to obtain it
  - So why strive for it?
  - Because God calls us to it
  - But not in the way we typically think of perfection
    - It's not something earned or achieved
    - Instead it's found through grace
    - It's not something that is ours, but something that is God's
    - We've learned that perfection shows up
      - In weakness
      - In love
      - In God's will
    - All of which we must surrender our imperfection to God's perfection to experience.
- Just as we began with words that resonate or stick with us, today we are going to explore what **Psalm 19 says, "The law of the Lord is perfect (7a; ESV)"**
  - Assumption that most of us would agree with this
    - We believe that the Bible is the Word of God
    - God is perfect, so anything that we would find in the Bible has to be perfect
  - The Psalmist understood this to be true as well and as a result prayed this prayer: **"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer (14; ESV)."**
    - This is how I would like for us to finish this sermon series on perfection
    - A prayer of reflection, a prayer of allowing God's Word to be the words of our life.

### Identify the Elephant in the Room and Let God Fill Your Life

- The Elephant in the Room
  - It's the one thing that everyone is aware of, but few really want to talk about it

- Makes us feel uncomfortable
- Takes courage sometimes to point it out
- And yet the moment someone just finally points it out, everyone breathes a sigh of relief.
- **Psalm 19:1-2**
  - God is the God of the Universe
  - God created everything
  - God is everywhere
  - The truth of who God is and his presence is evident throughout creation
  - **Romans 1:20, “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse (ESV).”**
- Let’s just be honest about this “elephant”- God is everywhere, nothing that goes on in this world is done without the knowledge of God.
  - This realization gets personal when as the Psalmist says **Psalm 19:3-4**
  - Nothing that we do, say, or think is done apart from the knowledge of God
- Why is this important to perfection?
  - We tend to try to hide our imperfections
  - If we don’t show it or talk about it no one will notice, especially not God
  - And maybe we won’t notice it either
  - The problem is, our imperfections eventually come out and if we aren’t willing to admit them, then they usually come out at the worst possible times.
- **Psalm 19:5-6**
  - Everything we do is exposed to God
  - It is tested like a refiner’s fire
- What is the “elephant” in your life?
  - The part that you are trying to hide, but it obvious to God
  - **Say this with me... “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer (14).”**
    - Heart and Mouth
    - **“What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles a person (Matthew 15:18; ESV).”**
  - The moment that we are honest about the elephant in our lives we allow God to fill the void of our imperfection and there is an incredible peace that happens when we know that our imperfection is wrapped in the grace of God.
    - David
    - Woman at the Well
    - Zaccheus
    - Peter
  - All experienced God’s peace when they just acknowledged the Elephant in their lives. And you can too!

- We sometimes convince ourselves that perfection resembles something better when in fact perfection often restricts us from becoming our best
  - Fear of making mistakes
  - Judgement of self and others
  - Impossible expectations
  - Extinguishes joy and creativity
- **Psalm 19:7-9**
  - Reviving the Soul
    - New vision for life
    - If you experience a change in your heart and mouth, it will revive your soul
    - “Rejoicing the heart and enlightening the eyes”
- Story from last week related to Weak and Strong
  - Someone in ministry who did not have all the education
  - Compared to myself
    - What I didn’t understand when I started ministry
      - “You are young”
      - “You have a lot to offer”
      - Yet, I had no idea what I was really doing!
  - I needed that reminder in three ways
    - To keep myself humble
    - To encourage someone else
    - To sustain creativity
- God’s Word can revive your soul
  - Go to school to learn everything
  - Biggest lesson is to learn to be a learner
  - It’s a very Biblical lesson
    - Every time we read God’s Word we have the opportunity to look at our imperfections in reflection to God’s perfection.
    - How will we respond?
      - **Romans 1:21, “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened (ESV).”**
      - The promise of **Psalm 19, “in keeping them there is great reward (11a; ESV)”**
- If you experience a change in your heart and mouth, it will revive your soul.
  - *Let’s say this together...* **“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer (14).”**
  - These are perfect words for us to offer to God in prayer.

#### Power through Application

- Began with words that resonate and stick with us
  - Is it possible that you could add Psalm 19:14 to your list?

- Think, What is possible if we committed this verse to memory?
  - Change our heart
  - Power over sin
  - Approach to difficult conversations
  - Approach to roles
    - Job
    - Spouse
    - Parent
    - Friend
  - Before we stepped a foot out of bed
- *Say it with me...* “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer (14).”
- This is not the only verse in the Bible that can be beneficial, but the only way to discover the riches that the Bible has to offer is that you have to read it.
  - “The law of the Lord is perfect” (7a)
  - It opens the barriers that sin can plug up our potential
  - Revives our soul with new vision
  - Provides the power of God’s grace to lay down our imperfections for his perfection.
- Will you let these words resonate in your heart today?
- Will you commit them to memory?
- Will you allow them to become the words of your life?
  - Definition of Christian Perfection: “Comes from giving God the reins, turning our lives over to Jesus, and allowing the Holy Spirit to upend our plans and explode our expectations.”<sup>1</sup>
  - *One more time...* “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer (14).”
  - AMEN!

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<sup>1</sup> Colleen Carol Campbell, *The Heart of Perfection: How the Saints Taught Me to Trade My Dream of Perfect For God’s*. New York: Howard Books, 2019. Kindle Location 316.