

Women's Bible Study  
Psalm 19:7-14, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

***Where will you hang your hat?*** This is an idiom which may or may not be familiar to you. It means to depend or rely on something; to believe or trust something.<sup>1</sup>

Why is this important? Because life is confusing; sometimes it hurts, and often we feel uncertain about decisions and motivations in ourselves and others. So what can we truly depend on, where do we place our trust? The world system fails, and people fail. Even the best of men are mistaken in their efforts to please God because their interpretation and understanding is tainted with hidden selfishness and pride. If we depend on ourselves or others our disappointment may cause us to respond based on feelings. There is one source which never fails, is always right, and always has our best interest in mind – God's word, His testimony to His beloved children. In all things, our representation is Christ. The good news - we can have complete confidence in God's faithfulness as we genuinely seek Him through His truths. His grace has covered our sin; His forgiveness is extended in our weakness. The basis for every decision we make, and the way we choose to think, should be grounded in the truth of God's word. God never fails.

The first six verses of Psalm 19 speak of God's magnificent and unmatched glory seen in His creation. Verses 7-11 tell us of God's excellence in His testimony to us, and the last three verses of this Psalm record David's response to these truths. In this Psalm we read of the qualities and power of God's word; and to those who embrace Him, the peace, assurance, and certainty of His love.

**Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**

Look at the description of God's word – perfection, assurance, and wisdom.

- The law of the LORD is perfect.
  - It is without error, it is complete  
*"It is perfectly free from all corruption, perfectly filled with all good, and perfectly fitted for the end for which it is designed; and it will make the man of God perfect", Matthew Henry.*
  - It restores the soul, it rescues, it retrieves
- The testimony of the LORD is sure.
  - It is morally true, it is faithful, it is established
  - It teaches wisdom to those who desire it  
*"Incontestably and inviolably sure, what we may give credit to, may rely upon, and may be confident it will not deceive us. It is a sure discovery of the divine truth, a sure direction in the way of duty. It is a sure foundation of living comforts and sure foundation of lasting hopes. It is of use to make wise, wise to salvation", Matthew Henry.*

**Are you able to think of anything else in this world which is perfect?** God's word offers instruction without error. He hasn't forgotten to add something. He never loses control of a situation or is surprised by change. Although circumstances may be difficult to understand, His directions are complete and easy to understand for His children. God's word is powerful! Consider what it

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<sup>1</sup> Farlex Dictionary of Idioms 2015

takes to restore something to its original value. God's truths replace a tainted heart with one of beauty – He has restored us to Himself through His Son.

Most of us question authority at times; we may even question our own decisions. When we receive our direction from human sources, we are hopeful for the right outcome, but there is always a chance of error. When we seek to follow instruction from God with a humble and sincere heart, we can be certain He will lead us in righteousness.

**Psalm 111:7 The works of His hands are truth and justice; *all* His precepts are sure.**

We have instruction, direction, and guidance from God. In the Bible, we learn about God's righteousness, our sinfulness, our redemption, and how to honor God. God's law is perfect, and it requires perfection from men. It is not that we can attain it ourselves, but God has restored our soul in Christ because He loves us.

**Psalm 23:3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

With the idea of a restored soul comes peace. God has revealed His truths to His children that we might believe and obey. In receiving it, we are given the tools of His wisdom to practice His commandments. I do not need to be abundantly intellectual; I only need to be willing to be taught by God.

**Psalm 25:8-9 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way.**

**John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."**

Finally, read the words of Paul to Timothy as he encourages him to remain steadfast in his faith through all difficulties. Paul instructs his brother in Christ to seek wisdom from God's word.

**2Timothy 3:14-17 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned [them]; and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

Read the words of Solomon who sought wisdom to lead others in God's truths.

**Proverbs 1:2-4 To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion".**

*"It is sure, making wise the simple: being the word of the faithful God, it cannot deceive us; and they who, however simple in the eyes of men, are enabled firmly to trust upon it, are truly wise, wise unto salvation", Thomas Haweis.*

*"The more closely we keep to it [the Word of God] in our ministry the more likely we are to be successful. It is God's Word rather than man's comment on God's Word which is made mighty with souls", Treasury of David.*

We can depend on the perfection of God's word. Consider His faithfulness in your own life. Consider how He opened your eyes to Himself. Consider how He has changed you, how He has given you understanding and direction, and peace. This is not of your own doing, in fact, if left to your own, you would not be able to choose Christ. In order to adhere ourselves to the security of

God's faithfulness and goodness, we must choose to believe In Jehovah – the LORD – our eternal God. Through God's grace and work in our lives, we must choose to trust His holiness. This is where we must hang our hat.

*“This testimony is sure, to be fully depended on: the ignorant and unlearned believing what God saith, become wise unto salvation. It is a sure direction in the way of duty. It is a sure fountain of living comforts, and a sure foundation of lasting hopes”, Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary.*

Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

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

- The statutes of the LORD are right.  
The character of God's word is right. The word right in Psalm 19:8, actually means straight or just. The opposite would be crooked. When someone is described as a crook, it means they are bent or dishonest. This describes us without Christ. The word of God bends sinful man towards righteousness instead of away from it. God's precepts are one hundred percent correct. Often, our understanding is tainted by opinion or past experience. God gives us the instruction and understanding we need in order to think and act righteously. When we place our trust in man or follow an ideal based in the world, we will be sorely disappointed. Faith and trust based on the foundation of Truth is secure. God has ordained His perfect law; He has revealed His perfect instruction.

Psalm 119:16 I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

Psalm 119:80 May my heart be blameless in Thy statutes, that I may not be ashamed.

- The commandments of the LORD are pure.  
There is no sin, no error, nothing forgotten, nothing to be added. God's word is free from any kind of stain. It needs no qualification from man; it is in itself perfect and complete. What does this mean for us? We do not need to consider if what it says is right. We only need to obey. The security this affords God's children is immeasurable.

If we are able to ascertain the value of God's word to us, we will most definitely attend to the reading, studying, and application of it ***in all areas***.

We can be certain God's precepts are right because He is wholly righteous. This truth causes our inner man to rejoice. We do not need to figure everything out, we do not need to agree with the majority, we do not need to hope we are okay. We do not need to cross our fingers behind our back. We can be sure that in seeking to follow God, we have the promise of His guidance, and in this we rejoice.

Proverbs 2:10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

*“Enlightening the eyes, to wit, of the mind, with an evident and complete manifestation of God's will and man's duty”, Matthew Poole.*

How do you decide what to do? How do you know what to avoid?

Read these words of *Spurgeon*, “Free grace brings heart joy ... There is no cordial of comfort like that which is poured from the bottle of Scripture”.

Psalm 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

God's word is perfect, it is faithful, it is just, and it is pure. The effect of God's word is restoration, wisdom, joy, and illumination. God's word is powerful and worthy of complete trust. God's ways do not not demand perfect understanding in all circumstances, yet He does require obedience to His commands. Sincere faith is based on God's character and what He has done. God's grace and mercy is the foundation of our trust in Him. **If you cannot trust in a perfect God, who can you trust?**

**What does it mean to be enlightened?** Picture the break of dawn, something glorious flooding light into darkness. Where once you were unable to see your sin and were lost in all hope, now because of God's work in your heart, your vision is clear, your sin no longer blinds you, your hope is bright for the future. You now comprehend God's perfection, His love, your need, His forgiveness, and your purpose to glorify Him. You are drawn towards His light shining in a darkened world.

**Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.**

God's law teaches us to fear Him, to reverence His name because He is holy. God in essence is pure, period. He never changes; He is always right. Therefore, His judgments and His righteous will, are trustworthy and faithful all the time, and in every case.

**Deuteronomy 17:19 "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes,**

**Are we carefully observing all the words of God's law because we fear Him?** There is a warning to recognize – when we understand the perfect righteousness of God, we should fear His perfect judgment upon ourselves. We should take pains in our obedience to God. We cannot decide to follow some of His commands, while casting aside those that do not fit with our thinking or comfort.

**Matthew 15:8-9 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'**"

**Deuteronomy 12:32 "Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.**

"The doctrine of truth is here described by its spiritual effect ... and cleanses out the love of sin, sanctifying the heart in which it reigns ... The judicial decisions of Jehovah ... are truth itself ... not only is their power invincible, but their justice is unimpeachable", *Treasury of David*.

**Psalm 19:10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.**

**Do you delight in God's truths, desiring His will above all else?**

**Psalm 119:127 Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold, yes, above fine gold.**

**Psalm 119:103 How sweet are Thy words to my taste! [Yes, sweeter] than honey to my mouth!**

We have an illustration of tangible items with value. An abundance of pure gold and the overwhelming sweetness of honey. One is to be possessed; the other is to be experienced. There may be some momentary worth in these things, however God's word is to be held above all worldly things. This is easier for us to proclaim than it is to practice. Consider the lengths men go to accumulate riches on earth.

**Do you receive your greatest profits and pleasures from the world or from God's word?**

Psalm 19:11 Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

First, recognize how David refers to himself – Thy servant, in willful bondage to Jehovah God. Are you able to say this of yourself? There is great caution in paying heed to God's commands. We are given access to full instruction for every circumstance. Seeking to follow God's laws in obedience results in blessing. Just back up a few verses in this chapter. Because of God's grace in our lives and His instruction in His word, we are restored, made wise, have joy, and given understanding.

Consider this – before you were saved, God's power turned you from sin; now that you are saved, God's power keeps you from sin. There is blessing in our future salvation and there is blessing in our present sanctification. "Religion makes our comforts sweet, and our crosses easy, life truly valuable, and death itself truly desirable", *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary*.

Philippians 1:20-21 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but [that] with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

How do you pray for yourself? Do you pray that God will use His truths to keep you from sin, to cause you to see things more clearly, to act towards others with understanding? Are you accepting of admonishment from His word to turn you from error? Do you take care to pattern your thoughts and actions according to Truth?

Psalm 19:11 tells us that in keeping God's commands there is great reward or blessing. We do not keep God's word in order to receive a reward but in keeping God's word we are rewarded. Keeping God's commands perfectly is impossible because we are imperfect. However this phrase means that we guard the truth, that we attend to it, that we take heed to observe it, that we are watchful so as not to fall into sin.

Daniel 12:3 "And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

2Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

Have you considered the responsibility you have to those around you? What is your example of carefully following God's word?

*"We are warned by the Word both of our duty, our danger, and our remedy. On the sea of life there would be many more wrecks, if it were not for the divine storm signals, which give to the watchful a timely warning. The Bible should be our Mentor, our Monitor, our Memento Mori, our Reminder, and the Keeper of our Conscience", Treasury of David.*

Psalm 19:12-13 Who can discern [his] errors? Acquit me of hidden [faults.] Also keep back Thy servant from presumptuous [sins]; Let them not rule over me; Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

This Psalm now takes a turn from the power and perfection of God's word to David's understanding of the need for God's continued grace, mercy, and work in his life. Personally, these next two verses are perhaps the most difficult in application. The greatest efforts of keeping from sin are of no value unless I am willing to humbly look at my own heart first and foremost. Verse twelve begins with a rhetorical question – who can discern his errors? – the answer of course is not one of us!

Isaiah 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

*“Many books have a few lines of errata at the end, but our errata might well be as large as the volume if we could but have sense enough to see them. Augustine wrote in his older days a series of Retractations; ours might make a library if we had enough grace to be convinced of our mistakes and to confess them”, Treasury of David.*

*“Cleanse thou me from secret faults.] From those which I have committed, and have forgotten; from those for which I have not repented; from those which have been committed in my heart, but have not been brought to act in my life; from those which I have committed without knowing that they were sins, sins of ignorance; and from those which I have committed in private, for which I should blush and be confounded were they to be made public”, Adam Clarke’s Commentary.*

I am justified through Christ’s death and resurrection. God is working in my life through His sanctification and until I reach heaven, I am painfully aware that I fall infinitely short of His perfection. I want to be quick to confess the sin I am aware of and also the sin I commit in ignorance and am unaware of. It is my practice to pray for the purity of my heart – that God would cause me to see with His eyes, His compassion, and His love towards others regardless of how I might feel, how I might have been hurt, or what I think is right or wrong. The focus needs to be on my sin and my personal need for God’s forgiveness. Jesus’ example is to love those who crucified Him. In our own limited capacity it is impossible for us to extend grace and forgiveness to those who have hurt us, but in Christ we can do all things which bring Him honor. If I cannot or am unwilling to forgive, I am thinking of self. We are to die to self and live for Christ. It is about His glory.

Psalm 119:174-176 I long for Thy salvation, O LORD, and Thy law is my delight. Let my soul live that it may praise Thee, and let Thine ordinances help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant, for I do not forget Thy commandments.

Acts 24:16 "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience [both] before God and before men.

Psalm 119:133 Establish my footsteps in Thy word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Are you willing to pray that God would show you your sin so that you might repent?

Are you willing to pray for abundant blessing and success for those around you – whether blessings or struggles or even heartaches?

Psalm 139:2 Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up; Thou dost understand my thought from afar.

Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

In God’s grace alone, through the power of His word and the prompting of His Spirit, are we able to act in His strength towards righteousness.

What is the prayer?

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Does my speech and do my thoughts delight God? Please let it be so! Then my actions will be born out of a heart which trusts in God.

*“Let my mouth speak nothing but what is true, kind, and profitable; and my heart meditate nothing but what is holy, pure, and chaste”, Adam Clarke’s Commentary.*

God’s words are complete, they restore the soul, they are without error, they give wisdom, they are just, they rejoice the heart, they are pure, they give understanding, they produce reverence, they are eternal, they are true and righteous. God’s truths are to be desired above all things; by them we are cautioned, in keeping them we are blessed. We are unworthy of His pardon yet through His Son we are forgiven. Because of His redeeming grace in our lives and through His strength alone, our words, thoughts, and actions can be acceptable to God.

Is our desire to please ourselves? Is our desire to please men? Or is our desire to please God? ***Where will you hang your hat?*** On God’s inerrant and powerful truths or on man’s inept weakness?