

XSI 2017 Breakout Seminar | An Invitation to Covet

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Introduction

In Psalm 19 God calls us to positively covet (to cultivate an inordinate desire for) his word. More than revering or assigning a special place in our memories for God's Word, he invites us to know, delight in, hold fast to, be changed by and rest our hope upon what he says in it. God uses his Word to free us from fearful responses to both the grand and intimate challenges of life so that we can be worshipers who are truthful, gracious, humble, courageous, and who delight in him.

Psalm 19:9... the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb

1. God speaks in creation: know my glory

A. Creation declares God's glory

Psa. 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

B. Creation points away from itself as worshipful

Psa 19.5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Two specific applications:

1. A word of warning.
2. A word of encouragement.

2. God speaks in his word: know me personally

Psa. 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psa 19.8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

A. God introduces himself PERSONALLY to us in his word.

B. What's being identified as God's word is his WRITTEN DOWN word.

C. There's no wedge between the TRUTH of what YHWH speaks and the GOODNESS of what YHWH speaks.

“The Psalmist now exalts the law of God both on account of its price and sweetness. This commendation depends on the commendations given in the preceding verses; for the many and great advantages which he has just now enumerated, ought justly to make us account heavenly truth the highest and most excellent treasure, and to despise, when compared with it, all the gold and silver of the world...”

-- John Calvin, *Commentary on Psalm 19*

3. God speaks in redemption: know me savingly

Psa 19.11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Rock =

Redeemer =

“The psalm ends, not on a note of avoiding sin, but on that offering back to God the mind’s fitting response to His own words, as a pure sacrifice (Ho. 14:2). This is the probable implication of acceptable, a term often found in sacrificial contexts. And God is addressed not as the sinner’s accuser or as judge but as his refuge and champion (redeemer). He belongs to him by the covenant which the law itself presupposes.”

-- Derek Kidner, *Psalm 19*

Applications

1. Knowing the Lord as rock and redeemer leads to the [costly] offering of refuge.
2. Perseverance.

Secondary resources and suggestions for further study

Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament, Edited by G. K. Beale Carson and D.A. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.

Bruggemann, Walter. *Psalms*, ed. Bill T. Arnold (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

D.A Carson, G. K. Beale. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*, Edited by G. K. Beale and D. A. Carson. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *Slogging Along in the Paths of Righteousness: Psalms 13-24*. Ross-shire, Scotland, UK: Christian Focus, 2014.

Edwards, Jonathan. "Concerning the End for Which God Created the World." In *Ethical Writings*, edited by Paul Ramsey, 8. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1989.

Kidner, Derek. *Psalms 1-72* The Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, Edited by D.J. Wiseman. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1973.

Ortlund, Dane C. *Edwards on the Christian Life* Theologians on the Christian Life, Edited by Stephen J. Nichols and Justin Taylor. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.