

(Personal note) Every sermon should include four important components,

Encouragement

Revelation

Conviction

Reminders

God Speaks

Message Three

Through His Word

God speaks an Un-Changing Message, Through His World and now, Through His Word.

Psalm 19: 7-11 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.

God speaks, both through His world and through His Word.

As God speaks through His Word,

He makes clear,



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His character and nature,

Mankind's character and nature,

How man can be reconciled to God through God's Son, Jesus Christ.

This Word provides warning:

for disobedience,

promises reward for obedience,

with the greatest reward being God Himself.

Introduction

As we said in last week's message, Francis Bacon, the 15th-century scientist credited with developing the scientific method, said: "There are two books laid before us to study, to prevent us from falling into error: first the volume of the Scriptures, which reveal the will of God; then the volume of the creation, which expresses His power."

Also in last week's message we considered how God speaks through creation.

In this message, we will consider how God speaks through His Word, the Bible.

As we know, Paul tells us that God is the divine author of all the Scriptures.

II Timothy 3: 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Scripture is God's revelation of Himself and His plan of redemption, which He accomplishes through Jesus Christ.



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Luke 24: 25-27 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

I'm concerned for people who don't spend anytime in the Word learning about Father.

Let's look together as how God speaks through His Word.

I – God Speaks to Reveal His Character and Nature (vv. 7-9)

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.

God's revelation of Himself in His Word is an incredible picture of His grace.

We couldn't know God if He did not take the initiative to reveal Himself.

He has taken such initiative, and He has done so through His Word.

David uses several words to refer to God's Word –

law,

testimony,

precepts,

commandment,

fear,
and rules.

With each reference to God's Word, David lists an accompanying characteristic –

perfect,
sure,
right,
pure,
clean,
enduring,
true,
and righteous.

Finally, David lists effects of God's Word.

It revives,
makes wise,
brings rejoicing,
enlightens.

It is important to remember that God's Word is His revelation of Himself to us.

Always remember, we don't worship the Bible, but rather the One who gave it.

The reason the Bible is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, enduring, and righteous is because God is.

His revelation reveals, reflects, and is consistent with His character and nature.



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The reason we can become revived, wise, joyful, and enlightened by God's Word is because it points us to the One who can accomplish those things in us.

God doesn't give us life, wisdom, and joy as gifts outside, or apart from or of Himself.

He gives us Himself, and we find all those things in Him.

It's Word of God that points us to the God of the Word, who then completely satisfies our soul with Himself.

Important Question:

When you read God's Word, do you marvel simply at the content of the book, or at the one to whom it points?

As you read the Word this week, ask yourself, "What does this passage tell/show me about the character and nature of God?"

Also, "How does God want to use this passage of Scripture to revive me, make me wise, give me joy, and/or enlighten my Spirit?"

God's ultimate goal is to glorify Himself by making us more like Him.

As John Piper puts it, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

II – God Speaks to Show that Our Desire Should Be for Him (vv. 10-11)

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.

The Word of God should never be considered apart from the God of the Word.

God did not reveal Himself in His Word so that we might treat the book as our greatest treasure.

Instead, He gave us His book so we might know how to regard and worship Him as our greatest treasure – in Spirit and in truth.

The reason God's Word is more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey is because through it God leads us to Himself, the One who is preeminently desirable and who alone is worthy of our adoration.

A growing love for the Word of God should naturally lead us toward a growing love for the God of the Word.

This doesn't mean the Word of God itself is not valuable.

It is valuable, as a good gift from a good God.

It not only tells us about God and what He is like, but it tells us about ourselves and what we are like.

It warns us when we stray from God's standard – which is holiness.

It reminds us that obedience to God's Word brings reward.

The Word of God is the means by which the Spirit of God confronts a lost man with his sin and draws him to a restored relationship with God, through Christ.

The Word of God is also how the Spirit of God sanctifies believers (John 17:17), calling us to walk in greater obedience.

John 17: 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

But again, in all of this work, the Word of God directs our desire to the God of the Word.

Important Question:

Can you say with the Psalmist, ***"My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times" (Ps. 119: 20)?***

Or again, ***"Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them" (Psalm 119: 129)?***



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We need to ask God to give us a love for His Word and strength to obey it, so that through it, God might cultivate a greater love in our hearts for Him.

As He does, we will be challenged to live greater lives of obedience for His glory.

Conclusion:

For the saved, as we have seen, God speaks through His Word, revealing His character and nature.

Through His Word, He also shows that our desire should be for Him.

For the unsaved, the Word of God shows the lost man, that we don't live up to the demands of God's holy nature and that our desire is not for Him.

It brings the lost man face to face with His need to be reconciled to this Holy God, and shows how that can take place only by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Word of God also points the believer to the God of the Word, bringing about an ever-deepening love for the God who loved him first.

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II – God Speaks to Show that Our Desire Should Be for Him



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