

**Educating the Heart***Psalm 19*

**Introduction:** In Psalm 19:14 David prays to be a man whose every thought and word is pleasing to God. It is a remarkable prayer. In this study we are going to think about how we can become the type of person who would pray what David prayed and want what David wanted. As Steve mentioned on Sunday, this prayer is a response to God's revelation in both creation and in the Scriptures, both of which have the capacity to "educate our hearts" (i.e. to inform and convince our hearts what we should want and therefore think and talk about). God is speaking. Our responsibility is to pay attention to what God is saying through creation and the Scriptures. May each of us be encouraged to listen well.

**Opening Question:** When did you begin to really take the Scriptures seriously?

**Read Psalm 19**

1. What does this psalm say about how God is revealed through creation (vv. 1-6)?

Steve said:

Sometimes I ignore the glory of God in creation. Sometimes I fail to take time to look up and become filled with wonder at the sun, moon, and stars. Sometimes I'm too busy to stop and notice the beauty of God in a flower that is bursting with color and intricacy and life. Some of us are more insulated from creation than others of us. We have to be very intentional about putting ourselves in a position to soak in the glory of God that is being declared by creation. The glory of God in creation has the capacity to educate our hearts. Creation can convince our hearts to give God His rightful place in our lives.

2. In what way(s), if any, have you experienced the glory of God in creation convincing your heart to give God His rightful place in your life?

3. Do you sense you need to be more intentional about putting yourself in a position to soak in the glory of God that is being declared by creation? If so, how?

4. How is the law of the LORD described (vv. 7-13)? What benefits does it produce in our lives?

5. Which of these benefits of the Scriptures do you sense that you most need right now?
  
6. How does your current desire for the Scriptures compare to David's description of the desirability of the Scriptures in verse 10?

Steve said:

What has been your experience of God through the Scriptures lately? Are you consistently hearing the voice of God? Are you being nourished by what you read and meditate upon? You may need to spend some time examining your attitude toward the Scriptures. I have to admit that at times I have approached Scripture with: 1) boredom – really not expecting to find anything interesting or life-changing there, 2) dread – thinking that God will beat me to death with His Word because of my own disobedience, 3) arrogance – not really open to having my heart and mind changed on a topic, thinking that I've got it all figured out and no longer need to listen.

7. What has been your experience of God through the Scriptures lately?
  
8. How would you describe your current attitude toward the Scriptures?

Steve said:

David was convinced by creation and by the Word that God's evaluation is what really matters. Because he had heard the heavens declaring the glory of the Lord and because he took such great delight in God's Word, David prayed, "God, I want everything I think and everything I say to meet Your approval! You are YHWH! You are my Rock! You are my Redeemer!" Can you honestly pray that prayer? Do you sincerely want every word and thought to please God - or are there things you want to hide from God?

9. Can you honestly pray that prayer? Why or why not?
  
10. How might your life and the impact of your life be different if the meditation of your heart and the words of your mouth truly were pleasing to God?

Please remember that next Sunday, Nov. 13th, in celebration of the *Making Room* campaign, we are holding a joint worship service in the KSU student union. A light breakfast will be served at 9:30 and then we will meet in Forum Hall at 10:30 for the worship service.