

Glory of God Revealed through Creation

Psalm 19:1-6

In 1962, John Glenn became the 5th person in space and the 1st American to orbit the earth. Thirty-six years later at the age of 77 he flew in space again on the Space Shuttle Discovery. Towards the end of that mission, he said this to reporters, "To look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible. It just strengthens my faith." ([Orlando Sentinel Article](#))

I read that quote in an Orlando newspaper article that was discussing how the experience of seeing creation from space so often impacts the faith of many of the astronauts, because it is such an awe-inspiring experience. At the end of that article, however, there is this quote from a biology professor who said that if you want a sense of awe, "you don't have to get up in a spacesuit and circle around. You can just look around. There's plenty of awe."

There IS plenty of awe if we will just look around, because God has revealed himself through all of creation. And if we will look around, it can strengthen our faith and it can help us rightly relate to our Creator.

We are in a sermon series called, *The Glory of God: Our Passion in Life*. We are exploring aspects of God's glory with the objective that it might become the reigning passion in our lives. We are seeking to move from lives where we are too often self-centered, to lives where everything is about God and His glory. Today, we are going to consider how God reveals his glory through what He has made. We don't worship creation, but when we rightly appreciate creation it can help us to more consistently live lives for God's glory.

We are going to look at Psalm 19. The first half of this psalm talks about how God speaks to us through creation (general revelation); the second part talks about how God speaks through the Scriptures (special revelation). God speaks through both. Next week Steve will be talking about this second aspect, but today we are going to look at the first 6 verses, which address of how...

God Reveals His Glory through Creation

*¹ The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.*

All of creation tells of God's glory, but here he focuses on one aspect of creation – the heavens. Day and night, sun and moon, and the stars in the night sky, declare *the glory of God*. *Their expanse is declaring the work of His hands*.

It is likely that the Apostle Paul had this Psalm in mind when he wrote in Romans 1:20:

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Paul says that God's invisible attributes have been clearly seen through what has been made. Creation reveals truths about the Creator.

As we continue in Psalm 19, the psalmist says several things about the nature of how God is speaking through creation. First, he says that this **God is continuously speaking through creation**. Verse 2:

*² Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.*

There has never been a moment in human history in which creation has not been speaking about God and His glory. *Day to day pours forth speech*. It is not audible speech, but it is clear speech to the one who will pay attention. And each night, *night to night*, knowledge about God is revealed. God is continuously speaking through creation. And so the question is never, "Is God speaking?" The question is always, "Are we listening?"

The psalmist makes a second point about how God is speaking in this verse. He says that **God speaks abundantly**. The phrase, *pours forth*, literally means "to flow, to bubble up, to gush out." Like a spring that continuously bubbles up fresh water, so too creation keeps gushing out revelation about God's glory. God's speech is abundant.

And the psalmist goes on to add that **God's speaks universally**. Verse 3:

*³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.
⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their utterances to the end of the world.*

What God says through creation has *gone out through all the earth*; it has gone to the *end of the world*. Therefore, it speaks to everyone, everywhere. No one is without this general revelation of God's glory. God speaks continuously, abundantly and universally through creation.

Now, starting in the last line of verse 4, the psalmist focuses on the sun – the most brilliant aspect of the heavens. He says:

In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

By this he probably means that night is like a tent into which the sun disappears each night. But then each morning, the sun comes out of that tent. He describes the sun this way:

*⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.
⁶ Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
And its circuit to the other end of them;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

He likens the sun to a *bridegroom* and a *strong man*, which seem to point to strength, energy and even joy that is revealed by the sun as it rises and runs its course across the heavens each day. And *nothing is hidden from its heat*. Again, this is pointing to this universal revelation of creation.

God reveals His glory through creation. He is speaking to everyone, everywhere, continuously and abundantly. Are we listening?

Now, if we are listening to what God is saying through creation, there are a number of ways that it can lead us to turn away from self-centered lives toward a God-centered approach to life. I want to mention two. First, **God's glory revealed through Creation can help lead us to worship.**

In Psalm 29, David describes another aspect of creation. He describes a storm that moves over the Mediterranean waters and then over the land. He describes the power and even the destructive force of the storm. Right at the start of that psalm, David states what our response ought to be. He says:

*¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of the mighty,
Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name;
Worship the Lord in holy array.*

David, seeing the majesty and power revealed through the storm, says that the right response is to bow down before God in worship.

When we rightly understand what creation says about God, it can help lead us to worship. You stand on a mountain and it says God is majestic. You look at the ocean and you get a glimpse of the depths of God's love, and the unending waves breaking on shore remind that God's grace never ends. You look at a sunset and it declares God's beauty. You ponder the grains of sands in a desert and it says God is abundant. You look at the sky over western Kansas and it says God is vast. When we see the beauty, the power, the vastness, and majesty of God through creation, it can humble us and lead us to worship. And if we are in a posture of worship before God, we will live God-centered, not self-centered lives.

When my sister was facing her battle with what would ultimately be a fatal brain tumor and I was struggling to understand what God was doing, there was a night when I went out into our backyard and stared up at the stars as I prayed. Isaiah 40:26 says:

*Lift up your eyes on high
And see who has created these stars,
The One who leads forth their host by number,
He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power,
Not one of them is missing.*

God didn't give me any answers that night about what He was doing. But He reminded me of who He is. The One who created the stars. The One who calls each of them by name. The One who is mighty and powerful. As much as I was tempted to argue with God about what He was doing with my sister, as I looked at the stars that night and contemplated what it said about God it helped me return to a posture of worship. It helped me get to a place of saying in my heart, "God, I don't know what you are doing, but I will continue to worship you. You are the Creator. I'm the created."

When we see God's glory through creation, it can help us stay in a God-centered posture of worship, which is where we must be if we are going to live lives for the glory of God. And secondly, when we see **God's glory revealed through Creation can lead us to trust.**

In Matthew 6, Jesus talks about how, if we will pay attention to creation, it can lead us to a place of trust. Jesus said in verse 25:

²⁵ "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

As COVID-19 continues, many of us feel some of this right? It causes us to worry about provision. It causes us to worry about our lives. Jesus' answer is to pay attention to what God reveals through creation. He says:

²⁶ "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?" ²⁷ "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?" ²⁸ "And why are you worried about clothing?"

And if you are, what is Jesus' suggestion? Keep looking at creation.

Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, ²⁹ yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ³⁰ "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! ³¹ "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' ³² "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Jesus directs us to look at smaller things like birds and flowers. God speaks through creation not in only the grand and majestic, but also through small things like birds and flowers. Jesus tells us that if we will only look and observe these things, we can come to understand that God will take care of us. And if we understand that God will take care of us, we can trust him.

Have you ever done what Jesus tells us to do here? Have you ever looked at the birds and considered how God takes care of them? Have you ever observed the beauty of flowers and how

God clothes them? Creation reveals God's glory IF we will look; IF we will observe. And Jesus is telling us that if we do, it can lead us away from self-centered worry, to God-centered trust.

Paying attention to what God is saying to us through creation can lead us to worship and trust. And if we are in a posture of worship and trust, then we are in a place where we are moving away from self-centeredness towards making God's glory the reigning passion in our lives.

I'm really thankful that I had the chance to study and reflect on the topic of God's glory revealed through creation this week. I needed this reminder. As we've walked through this COVID experience I've struggled with anxiety at times. There is anxiety related to concern for loved one's for health and for job situations. There is anxiety from life being so disrupted. There is anxiety of trying to figure out what ministry looks like during this time. Can we do Rooted? What should life groups look like? Can we meet in person or not? There are so many unknowns and yet I can tend to think that I've got to figure it all out. And I begin to step into a place that God never intended for me to be, a place where it is all on me to be smart enough, planned enough, creative enough, hard-working enough to make it through this time.

But I have sensed an invitation from God this week to slow down and pay attention to what He is always saying through creation. "I am the Creator. I am powerful, wise, good, and firmly in control." I'm sensing that God wants me to reflect on how He is revealed through creation and be led again to a place of worship and trust. I'm not there yet. I feel like the person who is parched and dry from lack of water, but who knows how refreshing a nice cool drink of water is going to be once it can be had. Seeing God's glory in creation is the cool drink I need. And so this week, especially out on walks, I've been looking at trees and grass and squirrels and birds and the blue sky and clouds. I've been looking. I've been observing. I've been listening. And as I've been doing this, I'm sensing God leading me back to a place of worship and trust.

God is always speaking through creation – continuously, abundantly and universally. He reveals His glory to us through creation. Are you listening? Are you looking? Are you observing? Are you paying attention?