

Listen and learn

Psalm 19

Introduction

Advice isn't difficult to get. There are lots of people who want to tell you what you should be doing or how you ought to be thinking. But not all advice or counsel is good. Who do you go to for advice? Who do you really listen to?

In Psalm 19 the psalmist introduces two significant voices that we really ought to listen to and learn from. Please read this psalm to hear what the psalmist has to say about the creation and the word of the Lord.

The voice of creation

The creation has something to say or communicate to us. Please review verses 1 to 6 to hear what it has to say and how it says it.

1. What do the heavens have to say and to whom are they saying it?

2. How do they communicate this:?

¹ Please note the more literal translation in the margin of the NIV. This is the translation that the translators of the ESV have adopted.

Think about it

The voice of creation is heard throughout all the earth. But whether men heed creation's voice is another matter. Please read Romans 1:18-25 to understand what the apostle Paul believes that people do with this witness.

What does the apostle say is revealed about God from the creation?

What do men and women do with this knowledge and where does this leave them?

The voice of the Lord

The psalmist moves on from creation in verse 7 to 11 to describe another voice. This voice does more than just condemn us and leave us without excuse. It is perfect for it is the voice of the Lord that is able to revive our souls. Please read verses 7 to 11.

3. Where do we hear the voice of the Lord?

4. How valuable is this word? How does the psalmist describe it?

5. What difference does the word of the Lord make to the lives of those who listen and heed what it says?

Think about it

What sort of attitude ought we to foster towards the word of the Lord?²

How does the word of the Lord revive people and make the simple wise (c/f 2 Timothy 3:14-16)?

The word of the Lord is sweeter than honey, even than honey that comes straight from the comb. We ought to have a healthy appetite for it. What is your own appetite like?

How are we to encourage a healthy appetite for it?

² c/f Psalm 119, 9-16, 97-104; Matthew 7:24-27)

How do we encourage each other to be feasting on the Word of the Lord?

The wisdom of God

The psalmist in the last few verses reveals what he has learnt through listening to the word of the Lord. Please read verses 12 to 14 to understand the wisdom of God.

6. What do we learn about ourselves?

7. What do we learn about God?

8. How then should we live in light of this wisdom from the word of the Lord?

Think about it

The Word of the Lord is wisdom from above that teaches us humility. This wisdom then shapes the way we think about life and what's important to us and hence the way we pray? What sort of things do humble people pray for?



Conclusion

There are lots of voices that are all seeking to influence the way we live. In this psalm David has introduced us to two significant voices that ought to be influencing our lives. We are to listen to these voices and learn.

Think about it

What do we learn from these voices?

What are the voices that distract believers from listening to the Word of the Lord?

What are those like who listen and heed it the word of the Lord?