

PSALM 19 – The Revelations of God! (Part 3 of 3)

II. Special Revelation (19:7-11) — e. The Fear of the LORD is clean (v 9a) – The Bible says that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. This is very true. The fear of God comes when the sinner realizes his sins before God. He knows he will definitely be punished with death and hell if he were to die in his sins without the Saviour. Yet it seems out of place to find the word “fear” in this list on the many different aspects of the Word of God. However, on examining the phrase “fear of the LORD”, we find that this is a most appropriate inclusion. Passages like **Proverbs 2:1-5** (KJV), “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; **2** So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; **3** Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; **4** If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; **5** Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.” [emphasis added], show us that the fear of the LORD is very tangible rather than something abstract. The Word of God and the fear of the LORD are used as synonyms here. The person who receives God’s Word and hides God’s commandments and inclines his ears unto wisdom and applies his heart to understanding and seeks after it with the perseverance and determination of one who seeks after silver and treasure, will understand (find) the fear of God.

To have the fear of God is to be afraid of God. When this is applied to the sinner, he will turn to God and accept Christ as his Lord and Saviour. When applied to a believer, this will keep him from sinning against God. Either way, to have the fear of God is healthy. It is the right kind of fear that we need on this earth. There will be less sin when this fear of God is present. This fear of God is clean. There is no impurity in this fear. Worldly or carnal fear will result in sin or other kinds of sinful behavior. When this fear of God is present, people will be careful with their lives and words. They know that they will have to answer to God for every word spoken and deed done in this life. This is the kind of clean-ness that is pertinent in people’s lives. This is what our children need when they go overseas for studies to keep them from sinning against God and going astray. When the fear of God is absent, it is painfully obvious that sin will abound and sinners will become more audacious in committing sins. The manner of life of unrepentant sinners will decay into debauchery and greater acts of sins will be committed.

The fear of God brings forth the effect of purity and holy living. Once this fear of the LORD is found in the life and heart of the believer, it remains forever. The Bible describes it as “enduring forever.” This means that the fear of the LORD is also a synonym for the Word of God that stands forever. It will not wane or go out of style. It will not decay. It will last forever. The reverence for God is also included here. The believer may not be in sin but he still possesses this fear of the LORD that will keep him from taking God for granted. This reverential fear will remind the believer that God is awesome and cannot be approached flippantly and with disrespect. He knows that God has to be addressed biblically according to how He has introduced Himself to us. This is especially true whenever we pray to Him and worship Him.

f. The Judgements of the LORD are true and righteousness (v 9b) – The judgements of the LORD refer to the many judicial decisions made by the LORD throughout the Bible. An Old Testament example would be **Numbers 15:32-36** (KJV), “And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. **33** And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. **34** And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. **35** And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. **36** And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.” Moses sought the LORD’s judgement regarding this man who broke the sabbath day law. The LORD’s judgement was that he be stoned to death immediately. A New Testament example of the LORD’s judgement is in Acts 5:1-11. Ananias and Sapphira were husband and wife who sinned against God. They sold their land and brought a gift unto the LORD. They did not bring all the money that they obtained for the land which they sold but they made the Apostles think that what they brought was all the money. Ananias, the husband, lied to the Holy Spirit first and he died before the feet of the apostle Peter who judged him. A few hours later, Sapphira came and she also told the same lie, not knowing that her husband had died earlier. She dropped dead instantly. The judgements of the LORD are strict and they reveal the mind of God on the many sins which the people of God and others commit against Him.

These judgements of God are not limited to Israel and God’s people but apply to the Gentile nations as well. Nations like Moab, Ammon, Syria, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome were all judged by God in Holy Scriptures. The Antichrist, false prophets, evil men and even Satan and the demons will all be judged by God. The judgements of God reveal the standard of God and His character. They are always true and righteous. God is no respecter of persons. When Moses sinned against God, God judged him fairly. When King David sinned, he too faced the same true and accurate judgement of the LORD. Righteousness is the key to all right judgements. Those who make judgements based upon what might or might not happen, are guilty of practising situational ethics. They judge as if they can control the future with their judgement. The believer must make righteous judgements regardless of what the consequences might be. He has to learn to trust God and leave the consequences to God. His duty is to ensure that all his judgements are based upon truth and righteousness. God’s judgements will guide the believer so that his judgements are patterned after God’s. The word “altogether” indicates that the two words are inseparable. They are the two sides of the same coin. The name of the coin is “the judgements of the LORD” which are always characterized by truth and righteousness.

g. Greatest of all desires (v 10) – What is most important in our understanding of the Word of God is NOT the perfection of God’s Word or the goodness that can be gleaned from God’s Word or the manifold blessings that are contained in God’s Word - as the above verses have revealed, it is that we must desire the Word of God. If the Word of God is not desirable to us, then the Bible would be placed on the shelf or found everywhere else in our homes except in our heads and hearts. To David, the Bible

was more desirable to him than gold, even much fine gold, i.e. the purest gold! Gold was and still is one of the most precious metals on earth. Gold is sought after by many all over the world and many spend their whole lives seeking after gold. Those who find it want more of it. Enough is never enough. The attractiveness of gold is in its glitter. It shines brilliantly and mesmerizes even the most insensitive of hearts. It lures the eyes by its shine and enslaves the heart of anyone who is foolish enough to love it. Many spend thousands to acquire gold. Gold has this illusion of value and wealth that other materials do not have. To wear it or have it in our possession shouts “wealth” loudly to the world. Yet David said that he desired the Word of God “proud.” Boasting is a sin that is common among all people. The young know how to boast and so does the oldest adult. The difference is how it is done. Some are very artful and they can do it very subtly. The young ones are a little more naïve and they would be quite blunt and direct in their boasting. Most adults are so skilful in the art of boasting that they can do it without others even realizing it. The most difficult aspect of presumptuous sins is the refusal to repent. The believer will be dominated and ruled by his sin. He refuses to repent because he insists that he is right. The Scriptures are able to keep the believer humble so that presumptuous sins will not plague and dominate him. He shall then be upright in the eyes of the LORD. A humble believer is an upright believer. He might be bent in his posture but he stands upright before God. The refusal to repent because of pride can only lead to greater and more damaging sins. However, a repentant heart will deliver the believer from greater transgression or sin. Sin has a way of piling up one on top of the other, so much so that an unrepented “tiny” sin can “grow” to cripple and destroy many lives!

The final result is that the believer will possess sanctified lips. The words of his mouth and the meditation of his heart will be acceptable in the sight of the LORD. He wants to speak godly words because his heart has been cleansed by the Word. His motives are pure and right with no hidden agenda. Such individuals are rarer than the rarest diamond but every true believer is supposed to be like that! Because of his holy words and life, the believer may be persecuted by evil man when their darkness and sins are exposed by the light of the believer! However, the LORD will be pleased. The LORD will receive and accept His child with open arms. The LORD will become the believer’s strength and redeemer. The word “strength” literally refers to “rock.” The anchor and foundation of the believer’s very existence is the LORD. His heart and his mind and his body will find their stability and purpose in the LORD Himself. The LORD will not only be the believer’s redeemer in terms of his salvation but in all other aspects of his danger-filled life. The LORD delivered Daniel out of the lion’s den. The LORD delivered the apostles from the dungeons even as they sang and praised the LORD.

CONCLUSION – Note that the name of God throughout these verses is “the LORD” which emphasizes the covenantal relationship that is the basis for the meaningful understanding of God’s special revelation. David was a born again believer who knew Christ as his personal Lord and Saviour. The person who believes in Christ will also be like David in his attitude toward the Word of God. The born again believer will also receive the benefits that David received from obeying and desiring the Word of God. The Revelations of God are His Creation, also called general revelation, and His

perfect Word which is also called special revelation. His Creation is sufficient to condemn all to Hell but is not able to save even one soul from Hell. The perfect Word of God is not meant to condemn anyone to Hell but is able to save all from Hell and into Heaven. God's general and special revelations are with us today for our blessings. The LORD did not need to give us His special revelation; His general revelation alone could condemn us and we would be without excuse. Thanks be unto God for His mercies and goodness upon us. AMEN.