

“THY WORD IS SWEETER THAN HONEY, AND DRIPPINGS OF THE HONEYCOMB”

David the author of those words, which flows from Psalm 19. Have you ever experienced honey dripping from a honeycomb? It is delightful, albeit it can be messy. Today we will be looking at God’s revelation of himself and how David responded to that revelation.

Gracious God, the psalmist states Your decrees O LORD are sure, making wise the simple; grant to us all wisdom as we now look at Psalm 19. Amen

David in this Psalm testifies how God has spoken. The first six verses are about the general revelation of God. In short how God can be seen in and through creation.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. ³ There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard.⁴ Their message has gone out to the whole earth, and their words to the ends of the world.

This revelation of God transcends all cultures and languages. Although David states they pour out speech, he then states they cannot be heard, and that there are no words. The message of the handiwork of God has gone out through the whole world. All of creation points beyond itself to the one who created. Creation points to the LORD of Lords.

Our text is about the special revelation of God. This is what He has revealed about himself, to his chosen people. It is His word.

David being the skilled wordsmith wrote:

**⁷ The instruction of the LORD is perfect,
renewing one’s life;
the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy,
making the inexperienced wise.**

**⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
making the heart glad;
the command of the LORD is radiant,
making the eyes light up.**

Have you ever experienced the Word of God like that? David firstly acknowledges the trustworthiness of this revelation of God:

⁷The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy.

One of the great joys of being Anglican is our rich liturgies. Our traditions of having the scriptures in our native tongue. Every aspect of every authorised service is built on the Word of God. That is why we hold in high regard the statement 'Word and Sacrament'.

We have the Word of God, it is perfect, renewing one's life. As you all know, as we personally and corporately spend time reading and reflecting on the Word of God, God through Holy Spirit can continue to assist each one of us to take the next step in Christian maturity.

Some describe the Christian life like a pilgrimage, some say like a walk. It is all those as we draw closer to God in both submission and in awe.

That is why we can all enter into what David stated:

The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the command of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up.

Notice, it is God working through His Word. There is, no doubt David sees, God's Word as: ***a special way of revealing himself*** and ***this*** revelation gladdens the hearts of those who respond to him.

⁹The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are reliable and altogether righteous ¹¹In addition, your servant is warned by them, and in keeping them there is an abundant reward.

We know that David had a colourful life, and no doubt yielded to temptation. Then you see the struggle of him trying to be the man of God. The Psalms that he had written were to encourage the people of God. The people were encouraged to respond, knowing that with the LORD God there is plenteous forgiveness through his grace. Psalm 130 we read:

There is forgiveness with you,

That is why as the people of God we too can enter in what David is saying:

".. in keeping (your decrees) there is an abundant reward.

Of course, you & I both know that the reward that David highlighted, is knowing we are in a right relationship with God.

¹² Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults.

¹³ Moreover, keep your servant from wilful sins; do not let them rule me.

Then I will be blameless and cleansed from blatant rebellion

God gave this special revelation, so we could live as the people of God. How perceptive is David when he said **Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults.**

Here is the grace of God in action – how honest is David! Of course, that leads to the quiet reflective question, “do we also come before the LORD with humility acknowledging we may not even know our unintentional sins?”– and then ask; “LORD cleanse us from our faults”.

You can see again how the Word of God leads the people of God to draw closer to Him. In this season of Lent – I dare say we all in some way desire to draw closer to God.

This led to the words, that many preachers use as a prayer prior to preaching, albeit with a slight change:

¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

Verse 14 can be one of those verses that each one of us can privately approach God on a daily basis. David by stating those words, is teaching that the LORD God will help him in that plea. And God stands ready to help you and I and every other person who prays those words.

¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my rock, and my Redeemer.

That leads us back to verse 10:

They are more desirable than gold— than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

The Word of God is more desirable than gold – than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

The rich Anglican heritage of St. John's the Evangelist, Gordon lays good foundations for the Word of God to be like sweet honey, to those who take the time to approach the LORD God through His Word.

Our tradition has taught us over many years that we are part of, and we believe in the one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

The meaning of the term Apostolic, according to the structures of the Prayer Book, indicates that we hold to the teachings of the Apostles.

This can be seen as the special revelation of God; that is the Word of God.

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my rock, and my Redeemer.

You may wish to consider using verse 14 of Psalm 19 to shape your prayers this week.

To God be glory forever!

Resources:

The Treasury of David – C.H. Spurgeon

The Psalms – Artur Weiser