

PSALM 19

Who can contemplate the sun, that glorious luminary, or think upon the revolutions of the sun and moon and the recurrence of summer and winter without adoring the majesty and goodness of the great Creator! And if we direct our thoughts to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, the Light of the spiritual world, shall we not fall low on our knees before his footstool and pray for his pardoning grace to cleanse us from our secret faults, and for his restraining grace to keep us from presumptuous sins?

St. Paul has cited this psalm in Romans 10:18, and therein he has taught us to raise our thoughts from things temporal to things spiritual, from the glorious works of creation to the still more glorious work of redemption.

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.
- 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- 5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

- 7 The law of YAHWEH is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of YAHWEH is sure, making wise the simple;
- 8 the precepts of YAHWEH are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of YAHWEH is pure, enlightening the eyes;
- 9 the fear of YAHWEH is clean, enduring forever;
the rules of YAHWEH are true, and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

- 12 Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
- 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O YAHWEH, my rock and my redeemer.

PRAYER

O great and glorious Lord God, you created the heavens and the earth and uphold them all by the word of your power. We adore and praise your holy name for all your mercies, both temporal and spiritual. Give us a lively sense of all the blessings we enjoy, and make us truly thankful not only for our support and happiness here below, but for the salvation promised us through Jesus Christ. Enable us to mortify all our corrupt and sinful affections--all pride, covetousness, and every evil passion--and to purify our hearts that they may bring forth the fruits of love, obedience to your laws, and patience and comfort in your Holy Word. May we read the Scriptures to our profit, and may we ever hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life which you have given in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.