

God's existence proven through general and special revelation | Psalm 42 and 19 | 5/29/16

- Introduction
 - Psalm 42 comes from a psalmist who compares his desire for God to that of a deer searching for life giving water. He is questioned by others who ask him “where is your God?”
 - We will then answer this with Psalm 29 of David which focus on the truth that God exists and that He has revealed Himself to us in two different ways.
 - One through general or natural revelation which is His creation.
 - The other being through special or specific revelation which was done through Scripture, which was the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that God gave specifically to man.
- Where is your God? | Psalm 42:1-3,10
 - **Read Psalm 42:1-3,10-11**
 - The psalmist speaks of how he longs for God just as one who has severe thirst longs for water so does the psalmist long for God when he is away from Him.
 - This psalmist is well aware of the presence and existence of God as they were Korahites who were gatekeepers to the temple and participated with the worship of God.
 - But when he was separated from temple worship and other believers he was taunted by them asking “Where is your God?”
 - This is not much different for Christians today.
 - When we come to church and we worship God we are in good company the question of “Where is your God?” does not come up because all Christians know personally who God is.
 - But when we are away from Christian and are in the world of the lost and unbelieving we are asked this question of “where is your God?”
 - But we also feel as this psalmist does when we are away from him, we long and thirst for the Word and presence of our God.
 - Because the Christian knows exactly where our God is.
 - **So how then does the Christian know that God is there? Why does the Christian thirst for the living water of God?**
- God has revealed himself to us in his creation | Psalms 19:1-6
 - **Read Psalms 19:1-6**
 - The worlds view of God and creation
 - When we look at the question “Does God Exist?” the world will examine this in different ways.
 - They will want to examine it scientifically and with tangible evidence.
 - The world may say if there was a God he would reveal himself to us, that he would make his presence known.
 - He would come down in a physical form and shown them his divine power.
 - And since God does not do this then he must not be real.
 - There must be physical proof that they can see right in front of them or measure in some sort of scientific way.
 - **And yet as we will see that the evidence is there, that God IS right in front of them he's just not there in the way that that they would expect**
 - When the world examines the questions of where did everything come from? And where was the beginning? It differs from how a believer will approach the question.

- The world will attempt to answer this question with human knowledge and understanding.
 - Man will use his mind that he has developed and spent years growing and expanding attempting to answer these question.
 - The worldly man believes that they are the most intelligent being on Earth so the answers must come from himself.
 - **Only by man’s own intellect and ingenuity can these answers be found.**
- The worldly view of creation isn’t creation, but mere chance.
 - That for life to come into existence that it had to be random.
 - That the building blocks of life having billions and billions of years to evolve and form that over this great expanse of time that life took shape.
- This is the scientific view of the unbelievers in the world.
 - Carl Sagan
 - Carl Sagan for example was an American astronomer and cosmologist who had some famous quotes:
 - “The Cosmos is all that is or was or ever will be”
 - The cosmos is the universe it is everything that we see around us and that there is nothing more and nothing less.
 - Translation=there is not God.
 - “The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. **We are made of starstuff**”
 - The “We are made of startstuff” is likely one of his most famous as it clarifies his disbelief in a creator and his belief that randomness in space had developed into everything that you see here today.
 - He says literally that the makeup of your apple pie was from startstuff.
- The views of Carl Sagan are not unlike numerous other atheists and agnostics that they have no belief in a divine creator.
- In the case of the agnostics that they believe that nothing is known, that one can never truly know if there is or is not a God.
 - But the view of agnostics is still that of an unbeliever.
 - Carl Sagan has identified himself as an agnostic.
- **So if we examine this belief of the world or of Mr. Sagan then we acknowledge that:**
 - Our existence is by accident.
 - Our lives have no purpose.
 - We could have just as easily been talking fish as to talking humans.
 - Paul’s perspective if God does not exist.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:32b
 - “...If the dead are not raised, Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”
- **How often is the question “where is your God?” asked either directly or indirectly?**
- The Christians view of God and creation
 - When the Christian examines this question of “Does God exist? the Christian has a different answer.
 - The Christian will not hesitate to answer YES God does exist.

- God does not appear in a physical form to the Christians that He does not do for the unbelievers, but **the Christian just knows what to look for.**
- **The Christian sees God through creation through what God has made and given us within the world.**
- **The Christian can see very clearly the hand work of God through this wonderful world that He has given us.**
- The Christian also knows of God's existence because of His unmistakable presence within **our hearts.**
- The loving and caring hand of God upon our lives if we simply just allow ourselves to acknowledge His presence.
- God tells us very plainly and clearly in the Bible how he makes is presence known to us.
- **David stated the fact that the Glory of God is declared in the heavens and that it is the work of his hands.**
 - This is of course Biblical truth that God has created the heavens and the earth as it is stated in Genesis.
 - Genesis 1:1
 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"
 - It doesn't say that randomness of stars created the heavens and the earth, or a big bang and all of a sudden everything existed.
 - Although in some way you can say that science does have it right with the "big bang" they just don't get it right in who made it.
 - Because you could say that when God Created the Heavens and the Earth it was likely a "big bang", God spoke and it was.
- **God has chosen to let his actual creation to speak for him, to show us that he HAD to have created everything and that intelligent design was behind it.**
 - Romans 1:20
 - "For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse."
- **Intelligent design is one of the greatest proofs when we look at creation as a sign for the existence of God.**
 - When we look at the complexity of the world and everything that takes place for it to support life it screams of an intelligent designer.
 - I have a harder time believing that randomness and billions of years could eventually come up with life and its complexity.
 - It is quite obvious that God had a hand in everything.
- If we look at the physical evidence for example the human body, we see that its makeup is very complex.
 - Everything in the body works together perfectly for us to function, to grow and to reproduce.
 - The brain, heart, liver and bladder etc.,
 - Everything he gave us down to our fingernails, eyelashes and nose hairs serve a purpose.
 - Leonardo da Vinci's perspective on the human foot:
 - "the human foot is a masterpiece of engineering and a work of art"
 - Does this sound like the results of random atoms crashing to you?
- God's fingers have created everything.

- It took a being with wisdom and power to create life, and the work of his fingers is written on everything.
 - “Psalms 8:3
 - “When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You set in place,”
 - **This tells us that God has an intimate knowledge of every life that has ever existed and it has PURPOSE.**
 - That God has a **purpose for each life**, because he is the intelligent divine being who created it.
 - We were designed with purpose. This is a feeling in the hearts of all people whether you are a Christian or not.
 - We long for that feeling of purpose in how we raise families, in our professions. People really don’t long to sit and do nothing forever.
 - This purpose is given to us by our creator.
 - So if you look at this with common sense and compare this to complex things that man has made we know that there was an intelligent creator that was behind the creation.
 - That a magnificent building or machine didn’t just come together and form itself, **it took someone with a mind, someone with a plan and a purpose.**
 - Man is keenly aware of what can be made with intelligent design by humans.
 - humans.
 - Our lives have no purpose and are meaningless.
 - So from this we know that:
 - There is an intelligent designer behind creation.
 - Everything God has created has a purpose
 - We have a purpose
 - **Do you feel that you have a purpose? (Even if you do not know exactly what that is).**
 - **As a Christian how would you explain your personal view of God’s existence and His purpose for creation?**
 - **Do you think it seems harder to believe in “starstuff” or an intelligent creator?**
- God has revealed himself to us with his word | Psalms 19:7-11
 - ***Read Psalms 19:7-11***
 - So not only has God revealed himself to us in his creation but also with his Word.
 - More specifically the word, the Gospel tells us God’s testimony and tells us how we ought to live.
 - It tells us who he is and is also instruction for us on how we are to live.
 - God’s divinely inspired word is cornerstone to our Christian beliefs, because it is necessary for us so that we can see who God is.
 - **But God’s Word is not just a book of knowledge, or book of instruction it is the living Word of God that transforms us.**
 - When we read a novel we may be entertained, but when we read God’s word we are forever changed.
 - God’s Word is living and it affects the soul within us. No other book can do this.
 - David is going to give us 6 truths that describe God’s word and the change that takes place upon the one who hold His truth to heart.
 - The truth of God’s Word
 - The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one’s life.
 - This is the most important truth, which speaks to the purpose of God’s word, his Gospel.

- Which is to instruct us on how we can have a renewed life in Christ so that we can receive salvation.
 - 2 Timothy 3:15
 - “and you know that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- The scripture is God’s perfect word and instruction for the fallen man so he can be united again with God.
 - Romans 10:9
 - “If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in Salvation.”
 - God’s word is the key to show us the truth of our need for Christ.
 - His word shows us that we are sinners and that we must confess our sins and believe in our hearts that Jesus is the son of God who died as an atonement for our sins.
 - Just as Paul said in Romans he wouldn’t have known what it was to sin if the law or scripture had not made it known to him.
- God’s scripture has all the wisdom we will ever need, it tells us what we can do to become a Christian and then how we are to live our lives.
- **This life breathing truth of God’s word will cultivate faith and once true belief is there then the lost is forever changed.**
 - **Romans 10:17**
 - **“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”**
- The testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise.
 - **The Gospel is the testimony of the Lord that bears witness to the truth.**
 - Its purpose is to make the inexperienced wise.
 - His word bears witness to everything regarding the fallen state of man, to our redemption and the walk that a Christian is supposed to have.
 - His instruction will make us wise in understanding of his truth.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - “All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God **may be complete**, equipped for every good work.”
 - A person may be made complete by following the teachings and disciplines of God.
 - This training in righteousness has a purpose to make us wise and obedient followers of Christ.
 - If I had to choose to either have all of the books that were ever written and all of that worldly knowledge, or just the Bible.
 - I would choose the Bible because God’s word is all that is needed for a person to be complete and to be equipped to do God’s work.
- The precepts of the Lord are right, making the heart glad
 - The Scriptures will make the heart glad, there is joy that only God can give us and that comes through Scripture.

- God's commands are righteous and true. The one who obeys them will have a joyful heart.
- **He gives us commands so that we can live a life without sin.**
- **This brings great joy and happiness to our hearts because this is what our souls crave.**
- The command of the Lord is radiant, making the eyes light up.
 - By obeying the commands of God our minds and souls are enlightened by the truth of God.
 - **Our eyes are lit up because we can now have knowledge and understanding of the truth.**
 - It's that moment in life where the light bulb has finally come on and the answer that once seemed so elusive is now within your grasp.
 - We are made aware of reality and can now see our sin for what it is which is misery and disconnect from God.
 - This is because the purpose of God's law was to expose sin.
- The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever
 - This is the only one of these truths that requires our response. All of the others are carried out by God.
 - To fear the Lord is the only proper way to view His instruction.
 - If we fear the Lord and His word, then we seek to obey His instruction, we approach it with a heart of humility and reverence.
 - To fear God is required of us.
 - Deuteronomy 10:12
 - "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul?"
 - Deuteronomy 10:20
 - "You are to fear Yahweh your God and worship Him. Remain faithful to Him and take oaths in His name."
- The ordinances of the Lord are reliable and altogether righteous.
 - The ordinances or judgments of the Lord are reliable and they are righteous.
 - God knows what is best for man and he will never make an unrighteous decision or judgment.
- **How would you describe the transforming power of the Scriptures? Can you feel the living power of God within them?**
- Conclusion to the question of "where is your God?"
 - The Christian can answer this question without hesitation.
 - The Christian can clearly see the hand of God that has created the world and has given us purpose in life. God is intimately aware of each and every single one of us.
 - The Christian has been transformed by the Scriptures they have changes our lives forever.
 - The Christian has assurance knowing that the Holy Spirit lives within each one of us and He will be there until we leave this world.