

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST Aug 4, 2019



Learning a New Language from Psalm 19

Written by Joey Sparks

A high school Spanish teacher took a group of his students overseas to Madrid for spring break. One night, while at a fancy restaurant, he attempted to order in Spanish. The waiter could not understand what he was saying and it took a painful few minutes for him to order. Consider his embarrassment of failing to communicate effectively in a language he had devoted himself to teaching! Are we ever guilty of devoting ourselves to God but failing to communicate acceptably to and worthy of Him?

The Psalmist—attributed to David—desires to speak acceptably to God as he concludes Psalm 19: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer" (Psa. 19:14 ESV).

As children of God, we are "learning a new language" that brings glory and honor to Him who created us and saves us. In passages like Ephesians 4:17-5:21 and Colossians 3:1-17, Paul describes the changes that happen when we put off the "old self" and put on the "new self" in Christ. It's both fascinating and overwhelming to observe how many of those changes involve our speech.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes
for all ages & fellowship
for lunch every Sunday!

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Jim Jackson

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DEACONS

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Jeffrey Ferrell JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

Learning a new language like Spanish or French demands “replacement of symbols.” Words symbolize objects, actions, and concepts. We replace the familiar words with unfamiliar ones which also represent those same objects, actions, and concepts. The more we practice that replacement, the more fluently we’ll be able to speak that new language. The “new self” in Christ is continually learning and using a new language. In Psalm 19, what do we learn that will help us with this ongoing spiritual practice?

LIKE THE CREATED WORLD

The first half of this Psalm focuses on the created order of the world. These refrains likely echo in our minds when we stand beneath the blanket of stars in the night sky, or when we awake early to a crisp sunrise, or observe the sun's rays pushing through gaps in the clouds following a storm, or stop to notice a glowing full moon. These opening six verses express what we often feel is inexpressible awe.

To express this awe, David assigns active descriptions to these otherwise inanimate, non-living beings in creation. The verbs are especially insightful: declare (v. 1), proclaims (v. 1), pours out (v. 2), voice is heard (v. 3), its voice goes out (v. 4), runs its course (v. 5), and the sun rises and circuits (v. 6).

Though the heavens and their celestial bodies are not living, because they operate according to God’s design and detail, they very much speak—even shout!—the goodness of the One who made them. This continues a Biblical connection between the “spoken word” and “creation” of which we first read in Genesis 1. When God created the universe and all that is in it, He did so by speaking it into existence. All matter and energy, as well as the laws by which they operate, began in the mind of God and were born from the mouth of God (see also Pro. 8:22-31 and John 1:3). God spoke them into existence and now they daily and perpetually echo his goodness and glory for all who will listen (Psa. 19:4).

When we consider our words and our hearts, may we imitate the sky and her stars, the sun and her rays, the moon and her glow—“God has put me here in his infinite wisdom and power, therefore I will speak of His glories always and everywhere.”

FROM THE INSPIRED WORD

As great as His revelation in nature is, God does not communicate His will for our souls through nature. We see evidence, continuity, and might in the created order, but we cannot come to know what He has done for us and what we are to do for Him by looking into the natural world. God reveals glimpses of Himself through nature;

He reveals His specific will for man through His word. If we limit our view of God to what we see in creation, our view of Him is narrow. He reveals his character and compassion toward us specifically in His spoken and written word (see 2 Pet. 1:19-21).

In Psalm 19:7-9, David not only describes the word of God but also tells of its capabilities within the lives of man. The law is perfect, and it revives the soul (v. 7). His testimony is sure—dependable and honest, and it helps us grow from gullible and foolish into living with wisdom (v. 7). His precepts are right, and they give us joy within (v. 8). The purity of His commands opens our eyes to a goodness beyond this world (v. 8). Reverent submission to Him will endure forever (v. 9). His rules are always righteous—both on their own and as a whole (v. 9). Verse 10 reminds us of how desirable His word will be for those who see and understand its depths. We desire His word more than the greatest of physical treasures. We desire them more than the sweetest of nourishing food.

There is no other source to which we can go that will both comfort and correct us with infinite dependability. The more we understand the riches of His word, the more we will continue to appreciate its spiritual relevance in keeping us from sin (Psa. 19:11-13; see also Psa. 119:9, 11).

To “learn a new language” that brings glory and honor to God demands we stay in His perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, and true word. Our vocabulary will be changed for the better the more we see His greatness in the pages of Holy Scripture. When we consider our words and our hearts, may we declare the goodness we see and hear in His word.

As David closes with the familiar petition of verse 14, it is necessary to remember the connection between mouth and heart. Jesus would make the same connection—albeit in a negative setting against the Jews—in Matthew 12:22-37. They spoke with hypocrisy because hypocrisy was within their hearts. David begs for acceptable words that come from an acceptable internal meditation. The One before whom we strive to speak acceptably is both the Creator of nature and the Revealer of spiritual truth. Thus, in David’s conclusion, he describes God as both “Rock” and “Redeemer.” May our tongues always speak aloud the glories of God, as do the created world and His inspired word.

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NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Seth Daniel, awaiting biopsy results; **Ashley Strickland**, recovering from tonsillectomy; **Jim Jackson**; **Terry Davis**; **Timothy Wilkes, Sr.**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**, **Wiley Tuggle**; **Inez Neyman**; **GINNA Honeycutt**; **Sarah Norris**; **Sammy Williams**; **Elizabeth Baker**.

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Family & Friends

Vicki Angel, Clifton's mom, small spot of breast cancer, surgery Monday, treatment in future; **Cooper Swims family**; **Noal Daniel family**; **Paul Perkins**, Mischel's dad, recent heart surgery; **Joy Angel**, Clifton's sister, health and family problems; **Phillip Vanwinkle**; **Don & Sheri Blackwell**, going home soon; **Tabby Jenkins and her family**, continue in need of our prayers.

Birthdays

8/4	Terry Davis	8/17	Dana Davis
8/6	Monica Meredith	8/18	Carl Honeycutt
8/10	Larry Campbell	8/25	Addi Bayless
8/14	Lily Wilkes	8/26	Jim Jackson
8/15	Carolyn Davis	8/28	Jerry Davis
8/16	Clifton Angel	8/30	Hannah Davis
8/16	Whitney Acklin	8/31	Kara Strickland

Anniversaries

8/1	Terry & Dana Davis
8/1	John & Suzanne Wofford
8/6	Tim II & Rachel Wilkes
8/17	Tim & Monica Meredith

Get Involved!

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior: TODAY
Between services

Youth Devo @ Williams': Aug 10, 5 PM
Mary hosting, sign-up sheet in foyer for count
Bring desserts, drinks, and lawn chairs

Providence Place Devo: Aug 11, 2 PM

Sen. Health & Rehab Devo: Aug 28, 10 AM

Coldwater Singing Night: Aug 28, 7 PM

Coldwater Gospel Meeting: Oct 13 — 16

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, August 4

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jeffrey Ferrell
Announcements	Andy Ratliff
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Tim Wilkes, II
	Russell Wadsworth
Assist	Marc Strickland
	Noah Davis
Opening Prayer	Kevin Dixon
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Tim Meredith

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	John Wofford
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Noah Davis
	Tim Wilkes II
Closing Prayer	Jim Jackson

Wednesday, August 7

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jerry Davis

TECH:	Daniel Owen
HALL:	Jason & Ginger Bayless