

Glimpses of God's Glory

☆ **in nature creation (vv.1-6)**

📖 **instruction (vv.7-11)**

⚔ **in grace (vv.12-14)**

Through the cross of Lent to the crown of Easter, dear fellow redeemed, loved by God:

It always happens when violence shoots up the news. Everyone wants to know *who did it and why?* People insist they have a right to know. They demand the “perps” be brought to justice – unless of course they can find excuses for why they committed the crime. Some keep blaming guns and SUVs, political enemies and organizations – everyone except the criminal. Why is our society so blind?

Why so worried about “~~global warming~~,” “climate change”? We can't even control our own sun! The “best minds” among us say our sun is one of billions of much bigger stars – all a bunch of accidents? *First there was nothing....Nothing blew up and became everything?* Show us this – just once! Make a house from an explosion. Natural knowledge all by itself could do much better than that. A thousand years before Christ we see some awesome **Glimpses of God's Glory** beyond natural knowledge. First...

☆ **in nature creation (vv.1-6)**

There's an ancient tradition that says the LORD God showed Adam the stars and gave names to all the Zodiac signs in order to tell the story of the Gospel in the stars. Consider the snake (Chinese Zodiac), the bull (Taurus), the virgin (Virgo), the hero (Orion). Before writing was invented did the LORD maybe write the whole story of salvation in the stars? Then man corrupted signs of the Zodiac into superstition, but God preserved His message in the Holy Scriptures: ***“Long ago he made these things known,” “..from the beginning of the world.”*** (Acts 15:18 EHV, KJV) The Lord's Apostle Paul does not mention myths and legends. Instead he shows how man's natural knowledge of God's **creation** leaves ***“men...without excuse.”*** In fact, Paul quotes this Psalm 19 as proof that the Gospel was heard from ancient times: ***“But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: ‘Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.’”*** (Romans 1:20; 10:18 NIV84). God expects everyone to investigate. Who has such awesome power and infinite wisdom? Who designed such a wonderful world for us? Who is God?

Everyone can see from nature that God is wise and powerful. Even little kids know that houses do not grow out of the ground. Carpenters build them. If you see a nest in a tree, you know a bird made that. How can birds build houses, but you can't? Why don't messy geese just stay away? God made His world for them too. All over God's **creation** are **Glimpses of God's Glory**. Why? ***“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’”*** (Acts 17:26–28 NIV84) **Creation** cannot tell us who the true God is, so we need...

📖 **instruction (vv.7-11)**

Have you heard how some people are suffering from “infobesity”? It's like binge eating for the brain. Others call it “FOMO” – “Fear of missing out.” FOMO links to anxiety, to mental and physical problems. Humans have limited information-holding capacity so our brains can be overwhelmed by TMI – “too much information.” So how are we supposed to fight information overload? (*Costco Connection*, 3/18)

The God who created our brains along with our bodies and souls could take the suggestions of experts and turn them into **Glimpses of God's Glory**. Try this: **Prioritize**: Since there's so much information out there, focus on "*the one thing needful*" (Luke 10:42 KJV), information you cannot live without. **Discipline**: Your conscience tells you that our wise and powerful Creator hates sin. So why are you alive? What's your purpose? **Disconnect** from all the arguments and listen. God's **Glory** clarifies.

*"The law of the LORD is perfect. It revives the soul."*¹ The Hebrew word *Torah* does not always mean Law of Moses or the Ten Commandments. *Torah* literally means "**instruction**" which includes both Law and Gospel. First, the Law kills our sinful pride and arrogance. Then the Good News makes us alive again because Jesus lived and died and lives again. God's *Torah revives [your] soul* with joyful faith that God loves you from eternity...to eternity and still today. **Fight digital distraction** by focusing on God's Word of **instruction**. Most people try to live like someone texting with eyes closed while driving in fog. Friends telling you it's okay can't keep you from crashing over a washed out river bank.

God's greatest gift is Bible **instruction**. That's why Christian education at Christ Lutheran School is priceless. My children are richly blessed, grandchildren too. I give thanks by supporting others now. *"The testimony of the LORD is trustworthy. It gives wisdom to the inexperienced."* While growing up, don't just read what your teachers tell you; read the whole Bible as soon as you can. *"The precepts of the LORD are right. They give joy to the heart."* That really helps because we're all sad sometimes. *"The commandment of the LORD is bright. It gives light to the eyes"* so you're not blinded by friends and family and personal opinions. *"The fear of the LORD is pure. It stands forever."* *Forever* means God's truth will never go out of date or lose its importance. All ages are blessed because *"the just decrees of the LORD are truth. They are altogether righteous."* God says we are *righteous* in His sight for Jesus' sake. Knowing God is on your side no matter what is *"more desirable than gold, even better than much pure gold."* God's Word is *"sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the honeycomb."* ¹¹*Yes, by them your servant is warned. In keeping them there is great reward."* (EHV) God wants to keep us from hurting ourselves and those we love. He gives *great reward[s]* of grace on earth and piles them to infinity in heaven. Guard God's Word as your greatest treasure and guard the Lord's day too. God lives to give ...

✠ in grace (vv.12-14)

"Who can recognize his own errors? Declare me innocent of hidden sins." Remember how terrified Martin Luther was if he couldn't confess every single sin to the priest? He thought for sure he was going to hell because he could not remember, much less confess all his sins. But this very passage, right here in Psalm 19:12, assures us by the Holy Spirit inspiring King David that God forgives sins we can't even see. We come to church for Confession and Absolution in our liturgy. We see God's law like a window. Break just one commandment, and you've broken all of them. So confess your guilt for all sin and receive God's forgiveness for all sin. God knows us **in grace**. He graciously forgives all sin for Jesus' sake. He wants us to admit our guilt to Him and to each other. Then forgive each other **in grace**.

David prays: *"Restrain your servant also from deliberate sins. Do not let them rule over me. Then I will be blameless. Then I will be innocent of great rebellion."* He learned the hard way how easy it is to do something you know is wrong. Families were ruined, including his own. People died because David thought he could sin without hurting anyone. But someone is always hurt by sin. You might think no one is hurt if you hack parental controls on the Internet. But pictures you would not view with parents can kill your soul. Secret sins also crucified our Lord Jesus. Thank God for **grace** + don't go there.

Glimpses of God's Glory shine beyond the sun. We will see all **God's Glory** home in heaven at last. For now we pray: *"May the speech from my mouth and the thoughts in my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."* Run to God for help. He protects us from the overload of

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sin and guilt. To bring us home to heaven God makes everything serve our eternal good **in grace**. Amen.