

God's Word

Ps 19:7-13; 2 Tim 3:14-15

SS Lesson for 12/07/2025

Devotional Scriptures: James 1:22-25

OUTLINE

LESSON BACKGROUND AND KEY VERSE

Background from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

Key Verse: 2 Tim 3:16-17

MAJOR THEME ANALYSIS

QUALITIES OF GOD'S WORD (Ps 19:7-11)

God's word is perfect and trustworthy (7)

Perfect because God's word gives freedom and blessings (James 1:25)

Perfect because the Bible was written through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Trustworthy because God said it (Rev 21:5)

Trustworthy because God cannot lie (Heb 6:18)

Trustworthy because God's testimony is the greatest (1 John 5:9)

Trustworthy because God's word is holy and righteous (Rom 7:12)

Trustworthy because God's word is good (1 Tim 1:8)

God's word brings joy and guidance (8)

God's word brings joy in our inner being (Rom 7:22)

God's word brings guidance because it provides insight (Ps 119:99-100)

God's word brings guidance because it is a light for our path (Ps 119:105)

God's word brings guidance because it provides understanding (Ps 119:130)

God's word brings guidance because it provides wisdom (Prov 2:6)

God's word brings guidance because it exposes sin (Rom 7:7)

God's word brings joy because the Holy Spirit gives joy when the word is welcomed (1 Thess 1:6)

God's word brings joy because it shows us that we will receive the goal of our faith (1 Peter 1:8-9)

God's word brings joy because that's why it was written (1 John 1:4)

God's word is truth and it endures (9)

God's word is truth because God is righteous (Ps 119:142)

God's word is truth because Jesus is the word, and He was full of truth (John 1:14)

God's word is truth because Jesus' words bring knowledge of the truth (John 8:31-32)

God's word endures because it never spoils (John 6:27)

God's word endures because God keeps His promises (Rev 3:10)

God's word endures because His word stands forever (1 Peter 1:25)

God's word endures because His word must be accomplished (Matt 5:18)

God's word endures because it is imperishable (1 Peter 1:23)

God's word has value (10)

God's word is valuable because it is worth all that can be possessed (Matt 13:45-46)

God's word is valuable because godliness has value for all things (1 Tim 4:8)

God's word is valuable because it is combined with faith (Heb 4:2)

God's word is valuable because it brings wisdom (Prov 8:10-11)

God's word rewards (11)

God's word brings rewards because it provides God's revelation (Prov 29:18)

God's word brings rewards because God rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Heb 11:6)

God's word brings rewards because it provides freedom if applied (James 1:25)

God's word brings rewards because it brings a blessing if read (Rev 1:3)

God's word brings rewards because it brings a blessing if obeyed (Luke 11:28)

APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD (Ps 19:12-13)

God's Word cleanses faults (12)

Cleanses faults through the washing with water through the word (Eph 5:26)

Cleanses faults through the spoken word of God (John 15:3)

Cleanses faults through obedience to the word (1 Peter 1:22-23)

Cleanses faults through sanctification of the word (John 17:17)

Gods' Word frees from willful sin (13)

Gods' Word frees from willful sin through keeping it in our mind and spirit (Ps 119:11)

Gods' Word frees from willful sin through living according to it (Ps 119:9)

Gods' Word frees from willful sin because it is God breathed (2 Tim 3:16)

Gods' Word frees from willful sin through it living in us (1 John 2:14)

OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD (2 TIM 3:14-15)

Obedience to God's word (14)

Obedience to God's Word through God opening our eyes (Ps 119:16-18)

Obedience to God's Word in response to affliction (Ps 119:67)

Obedience to God's Word through hearing (Luke 11:28)

Obedience to God's Word through doing what it says (James 1:22)

Wisdom of God's word (15)

Wisdom because it is trustworthy and true (2 Peter 3:5-7)

Wisdom because it has the power of God in it (Rom 1:16-17)

Wisdom because it is living and enduring (1 Peter 1:23)

Wisdom because it revives the soul (Ps 19:7)

CONCLUSION AND OTHER THOUGHTS

COMMENTARY THOUGHTS FROM THOMAS CONSTABLE

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS FROM THE NIV STANDARD LESSON COMMENTARY

Lesson Background and Key Verse

Background from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

This lesson pairs two texts, one from the Old Testament and one from the New, that praise God for revealing himself. Although the canon of Scripture was not complete when either of today's texts were written, the claims of these texts apply to the entirety of God's self-revelation in Scripture. It is not the invention of any human; it is inspired by God and communicated by human witnesses (2 Peter 1:16; compare Hebrews 1:1). The superscription of Psalm 19 calls it a "psalm of David," meaning the words could have been written by David, the "hero of Israel's songs" (2 Samuel 23:1), or written for him, perhaps as a reminder that Israel's kings should listen carefully to God. The psalm is known as the great "hymn of revelation" within the corpus of the Psalms because it speaks to both "general" and "special" revelation. The first half of Psalm 19 heralds God's revelation as made known from the fact of creation; this is information available to everyone (compare Romans 1:20). The second half of the psalm, which includes the reading for today, turns to praise for God's spoken and written word. These two sources of divine self-revelation—creation and word—hang together because they find their source in God's desire to communicate with those created in his image. When we shift to considering the New Testament text for this study, we will be moving forward in time more than 1,000 years from the writing of Psalm 19. Our arrival point will be about AD 67, when the apostle Paul was near the end of his ministry (and his life), and he knew it (2 Timothy 4:6-8). It's easy to sense a tone of urgency in his second letter to his protégé Timothy as the aged apostle stressed anew which was the more important revelation.

Key Verse: 2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Major Theme Analysis

(Scriptural Text from the New King James Version; cross-references from the NIV)

Qualities of God's Word (Ps 19:7-11)

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

God's word is perfect and trustworthy (7)

Perfect because God's word gives freedom and blessings (James 1:25)

25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

Perfect because the Bible was written through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21)

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Trustworthy because God said it (Rev 21:5)

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Trustworthy because God cannot lie (Heb 6:18)

18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

Trustworthy because God's testimony is the greatest (1 John 5:9)

9 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

Trustworthy because God's word is holy and righteous (Rom 7:12)

12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Trustworthy because God's word is good (1 Tim 1:8)

8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

God's word brings joy and guidance (8)

God's word brings joy in our inner being (Rom 7:22)

22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

God's word brings guidance because it provides insight (Ps 119:99-100)

99 I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. 100 I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

God's word brings guidance because it is a light for our path (Ps 119:105)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

God's word brings guidance because it provides understanding (Ps 119:130)

130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

God's word brings guidance because it provides wisdom (Prov 2:6)

6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

God's word brings guidance because it exposes sin (Rom 7:7)

7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

God's word brings joy because the Holy Spirit gives joy when the word is welcomed (1 Thess 1:6)

6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

God's word brings joy because it shows us that we will receive the goal of our faith (1 Peter 1:8-9)

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

God's word brings joy because that's why it was written (1 John 1:4)

4 We write this to make our joy complete.

God's word is truth and it endures (9)

God's word is truth because God is righteous (Ps 119:142)

142 Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true.

God's word is truth because Jesus is the word, and He was full of truth (John 1:14)

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God's word is truth because Jesus' words brings knowledge of the truth (John 8:31-32)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

God's word endures because it never spoils (John 6:27)

27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

God's word endures because God keeps His promises (Rev 3:10)

10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

God's word endures because His word stands forever (1 Peter 1:25)

25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

God's word endures because His word must be accomplished (Matt 5:18)

18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

God's word endures because it is imperishable (1 Peter 1:23)

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

God's word has value (10)

God's word is valuable because it is worth all that can be possessed (Matt 13:45-46)

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

God's word is valuable because godliness has value for all things (1 Tim 4:8)

8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

God's word is valuable because it is combined with faith (Heb 4:2)

2 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

God's word is valuable because it brings wisdom (Prov 8:10-11)

10 Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, 11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

God's word rewards (11)

God's word brings rewards because it provides God's revelation (Prov 29:18)

18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

God's word brings rewards because God rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Heb 11:6)

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

God's word brings rewards because it provides freedom if applied (James 1:25)

25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

God's word brings rewards because it brings a blessing if read (Rev 1:3)

3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

God's word brings rewards because it brings a blessing if obeyed (Luke 11:28)

28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Application of God's Word (Ps 19:12-13)

12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Gods' Word cleanses faults (12)

Cleanses faults through the washing with water through the word (Eph 5:26)

26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

Cleanses faults through the spoken word of God (John 15:3)

3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Cleanses faults through obedience to the word (1 Peter 1:22-23)

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Cleanses faults through sanctification of the word (John 17:17)

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Gods' Word frees from willful sin (13)

Gods' Word frees from willful sin through keeping it in our mind and spirit (Ps 119:11)

11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Gods' Word frees from willful sin through living according to it (Ps 119:9)

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

Gods' Word frees from willful sin because it is God breathed (2 Tim 3:16)

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Gods' Word frees from willful sin through it living in us (1 John 2:14)

14 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Obedience to God's Word (2 Tim 3:14-15)

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Obedience to God's word (14)

Obedience to God's Word through God opening our eyes (Ps 119:16-18)

16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. 17 Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your word. 18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Obedience to God's Word in response to affliction (Ps 119:67)

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

Obedience to God's Word through hearing (Luke 11:28)

28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Obedience to God's Word through doing what it says (James 1:22)

25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.

Wisdom of God's word (15)

Wisdom because it is trustworthy and true (2 Peter 3:5-7)

5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Wisdom because it has the power of God in it (Rom 1:16-17)

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Wisdom because it is living and enduring (1 Peter 1:23)

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Wisdom because it revives the soul (Ps 19:7)

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Conclusion and Other Thoughts

Commentary Thoughts from Thomas Constable

Verse 1

This verse is a summary statement. The "heavens" refers to what appears in the sky above us. The "firmament" or "sky" is the canopy that seems to cover the earth from our vantage point as we look up. It is a synonym for "heavens" (synonymous parallelism). The glory of God in this context points to the splendor of the Creator. As we look up, we see the amazing handiwork of God.

David observed in this wisdom hymn that under the influence of the sun, the heavens make God's handiwork in creation known to humanity. Likewise, people learn of God's plan to bless humankind under the influence of God's Law. In view of this dual revelation, in nature and in Scripture, David prayed that God would cleanse his life so he would be acceptable to God.

In the polytheistic ancient Near East, this psalm was a strong polemic against the pagan sun gods whom their worshippers credited with executing justice. The psalmist claimed that Israel's God was the Creator of the heavens, including the sun, and He established justice on the earth.

Verses 2-3

Every day and every night, this revelation of the power and greatness of the Creator communicates, since human beings observe it daily. The presence of the heavenly host is a non-verbal testimony to God's existence that reaches every part of the planet. Everyone, regardless of his or her language, can understand it (cf. Romans 1:18-20). [Note: See Harry Torcszyner, "The Riddle in the Bible," Hebrew Union College Annual 1 (1924):141-49.] This is "the paradox of wordless speech." [Note: Kidner, p. 98.] It is also an oxymoron.

Verses 4-6

God has placed the sun in the heavens. He, not it, is supreme. The figures of the bridegroom and the runner picture the glory and power of this centerpiece of God's creation. Since it is so glorious, its Creator must be even more glorious. The pagans used the same figures of speech to describe the sun, which they worshipped as sovereign. [Note: Ross, pp. 807-8.]

The name of God used in Psalms 19:1-6 is El, a title that describes the power of God. El is "the strong one." In Psalms 19:7-9; Psalms 19:14 the psalmist wrote that El is Yahweh, the name of God that stresses His covenant relationship to Israel. Thus he claimed that the Creator is Israel's God, not some pagan nature deity.

Verse 7

The revealed Word of God has the same dominant influence over humankind as the sun does over nature. Whereas the sun restores natural life, God's law restores the life of the human soul. The sun dispels physical darkness, but the Word of God removes the darkness of ignorance from our understanding. It is flawless and reliable.

Verse 8

Furthermore, it brings joy and wisdom to people because it is correct and enlightening. The terms "testimony" (Psalms 19:7; "statutes, NIV), "precepts," "commandment" ("commands," NIV), and "judgments" (Psalms 19:9; "ordinances," NIV) all refer to various parts of the God's law. [Note: See VanGemeran, pp. 184-87, for explanations of the various words that describe God's Word that appear primarily in Psalms 19, 119, but also elsewhere in other psalms.]

Verse 9

The special revelation of God in Scripture is also free from any mixture of truth and error; it is consistent with reality. Consequently it is enduring and completely righteous. The word "fear" refers to the whole of divine law. Knowledge of God's law puts the fear (reverential trust) of God in people's hearts (cf. Deuteronomy 4:10 AV).

Verses 10-11

David regarded the words of God as more valuable than gold, the most expensive substance in his day, and more pleasing and satisfying than honey, the sweetest substance. God's words warned him of error and danger, and they brought him rewards of many kinds as he followed them.

". . . the mark of a true Bible student is a burning heart, not a big head (Luke 24:32; 1 Corinthians 8:1)." [Note: Wiersbe, The . . . Wisdom . . . , p. 128.]

Verses 12-13

David's rhetorical question expresses the impossibility of knowing if or when we violate God's will without the light that His Word provides. It can bring to light faults hidden otherwise and can warn us of what displeases God so we can confess and avoid these offenses. David asked God to use His Word to bring these sins to his attention so they would not dominate him. This would result in his being blameless in God's sight and free from the huge mass of sin that would be his without the revelation of Scripture.

Verse 14

In closing this psalm, David prayed that his words and thoughts would please God. In view of the context, this takes place as we allow the Word of God to affect our lives. David viewed his words and thoughts as sacrifices to God (cf. Hebrews 13:15). This is the implication of "acceptable" or "pleasing." As he closed this psalm he evidently regarded God not as his judge but as the foundation of his life and the One who had purchased him for a special purpose.

"The Word in the hand is fine; the Word in the head is better; but the Word in the heart is what transforms us and matures us in Christ (Psalms 119:11; Co. 3:161-7)." [Note: Ibid.]

God has revealed Himself in nature and in Scripture. This revelation should move us to bow in humble adoration and willing obedience before our Creator. [Note: See Swindoll, pp. 56-66; and Allen, And I . . . , pp. 129-49.] Psalms 1, 19, , 119 all deal significantly with the Word of God.

"I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world." [Note: Lewis, p. 63.]

(Adapted from URL:<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/psalms-19.html>)

Concluding Thoughts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

In May 2023, a Hebrew Old Testament described as “one of the most important and singular texts in human history” became the most valuable manuscript ever sold at an auction. The Codex Sassoon, dating from the late ninth or early tenth century AD, sold for \$38.1 million at Sotheby’s in New York City. It may be the very earliest single volume containing all the books of the Hebrew Bible. That multimillion-dollar auction value may tempt us to connect it with Psalm 19:9-10, which values God’s Word above gold. But no matter how much an ancient or modern Bible sells for, it renders no eternal value to the one possessing it who does not read and heed its contents. Today’s lesson texts highlight this timeless truth. There is a value to the Bible that cannot be measured in monetary terms. But not all agree, and the Bible’s timeless value has been called into question by various challenges, attacks, and misunderstandings as the ages of history have progressed. But truth is truth in any era of history. What David acknowledged back in the Iron Age was reaffirmed by Paul in the Classical Age and invites reaffirmation today in the Information Age. One particular challenge of the Information Age is the sheer volume of information available. Were they alive today, we might wonder if the writer of Ecclesiastes would change the word books to websites in this observation: “Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body” (Ecclesiastes 12:12)! One observer of culture commented that people today don’t actually read while on the Internet; they are merely scanning for information. The difference between the two is important. If we slip into the scanning approach, the Bible will become for us no more than a collection of proof texts lacking genre and historical context.