

Get Educated. Think Biblically! Psalm 19

How much of your life will you spend getting educated?

Students will spend at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of your life getting educated. If you live to be 80 (like Pastor Yau) then you will spend at least 20 years getting educated. But will you be taught to think biblically during your 20 years?

Not counting preschool, I have spent 12 + 4 (college BA) + 3 (MDiv) + 5 (DMin) = 24 years. If I live to 96 it will be $\frac{1}{4}$ of my life.

You go to White Station, Collierville, Germantown and you get an education, but you will not be taught to think biblically. You may have Christian teachers, but they are not permitted to teach you to think biblically... at least not overtly. (I remember studying the Bible as literature in high school - a long time ago!) If they teach you to "love one another" then they're teaching the Bible because no other religion teaches it and the state has no basis for teaching it.

The only place you will be taught to think biblically is at home, church, or a Christian school (ECS).

"Get educated. Think Biblically" is accepting the Bible as God's authoritative word.

Here is the starting point to "Get educated. Think biblically." 2 Timothy 3:16-17: *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

This is the strongest statement in the Bible of the Bible's inspiration and authority. It's Apostle Paul's claim that the OT and the writings of the Apostles, himself included, were inspired by the HS. Scripture was breathed out by God. The author is also the interpreter. We cannot understand Scripture without the HS. Because it is inspired by God it is profitable for making you a mature Christian who is equipped to do works that please God.

"Get educated. Think Biblically" means Bible study. The reason for Bible study is to know God. This is theology.

Jeremiah 9:23-24: *Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast*

in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

It's also to know who we are, but primarily it's to know who God is. If you want to know about someone then you read his/her biography. The Bible is God's biography.

There are many misconceptions in the world about God. There are many lies about God created by Satan because Satan wants to steal God's glory and keep people ignorant. For example, in my daily devotional I was reading about evil king Ahab and his enemy's misconception of God: 1 Kings 20:23-28.

I want to show how to know God, how to think biblically, from Psalm 19. Psalm 19 details two ways to know God: general (natural) and special (supernatural) revelation.

General Revelation (19:1-6): Know God through Creation.

General or natural revelation is creation. Some essential qualities of God can be known by observing creation. Read 19:1-6.

If I create something then can you know something about me through what I create? If I create beauty, then I must be good and kind and beneficent. If I create ugly, then I must be distorted and twisted and evil. God creates beauty. Whatever is ugly and distorted is due to mankind's sin and Satan's destruction, but God's beauty is still visible in creation.

David was a shepherd and spent many nights in the desert. The desert with its cold, dry air is the best place to view the heavens and see the Milky Way. I have been to the high Mohave Desert of California and Utah Canyonlands and marveled at the heavens as they declare the glory of God.

The heavens speak for those who have ears to hear. The creation constantly attests to God's power and goodness. There are thousands of languages in the world, but very few common languages. The language of the heavens is a universal language, spoken by more people than English or Chinese. Every person in the world can understand it if he/she wants to and doesn't suppress it. But sinful people suppress it and silence the voice of the heavens.

Apostle Paul confirms this is Romans 1:18-20: *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

People with evil hearts “suppress the truth” about God. This “suppression the truth” is like using force to hold down a large spring that wants to spring up. God’s creation reveals his invisible attributes. Whatever or whoever created the heavens and earth must have absolute power and a “divine nature”; that is, a nature that exists outside of time and space and matter (Genesis 1:1). All people know this from creation and have no excuse for unbelief. God doesn’t believe in atheists.

David saw the glory of God in the starry night sky. He also saw the glory of God in the rising and setting of the sun. David didn’t have the scientific knowledge we have. David wrote about the sun as a bridegroom and an athlete. David didn’t know the sun was a burning mass of hydrogen atoms fusing into helium. It’s really a hydrogen bomb.

How is the sun a witness to the glory of its Creator?

1. The sun is unique among stars. It’s just the right size to support life on earth. It is just the right distance away so the earth doesn’t burn up or freeze. A red giant would swallow the earth and a blue/white giant would blind us.

2. The sun is an efficient source of energy. The sun puts out enough energy in 1 second to light up a billion major cities for a year.

3. The sun is safe for life on earth. It has no superflares or blasts of hot gases like other stars that would destroy life on earth. The earth has a magnetic shield for protection.

Where there’s design there’s a Designer. Sir Isaac Newton kept a model of the solar system in his study. He knew the natural order proved the existence of a mighty and majestic Creator.

Sir Isaac Newton made some of the greatest contributions to science ever made by an individual. Newton derived the law of universal gravitation, invented the branch of mathematics called calculus, and performed

experiments investigating the nature of light and color. He also diligently studied the Bible to think biblically.

Newton had a skilled mechanic make him a model of the solar system according to his calculations. Balls representing the planets were geared together so as to move realistically in orbit around the sun. One day an atheist friend visited Newton. He saw the model and operated it and exclaimed with admiration, "Who made it?" Newton answered "Nobody!" The atheist replied, "You must think I am a fool! Of course, somebody made it and he is a genius." Newton then said to his friend, "This thing is but a puny imitation of a much greater system whose laws you know, and I am not able to convince you that his mere toy is without a designer and maker; yet you profess to believe that the great original from which this design is taken has come into being without either designer or maker!" Newton's friend saw his irrational inconsistency and changed his mind.

Two of the top three irrefutable arguments for God's existence come from general revelation: cosmological and teleological arguments. Where there's design there's a Designer. This is the teleological or fine-tuning argument for God's existence.

Cosmological argument is the "Big Bang" or First Cause: *If God clapped his hands wouldn't that make a BIG BANG? It's just a theory.*

God's voice shouts through his creation! Can you hear the voice? Or is it silenced by unbiblical thinking and the science fiction of evolution?

Special Revelation (19:7-11): Know God through the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

General revelation is not enough to know God. We need special revelation to be saved and have eternal life. We need to OT and the NT!

What the sun is to the earth, the law of the LORD is to a person's soul. The sun gives life to the earth and the word of God gives life to the soul.

19:7: *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*

Law of the LORD - the comprehensive term for God's revealed will.

Testimony of the LORD - it is true attested by God himself.

Perfect - means whole or complete as without fault; the perfect God who makes my way perfect/blameless.

Sure/Trustworthy - means secure like looking for a secure hold while climbing or like a security system to protect your house; also means verified and so it is trustworthy like something marked with a genuine seal of approval.

19:8: *The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

Precepts and commandment of the LORD - indicates the precision and authority of God's speech.

Right - morally right or upright (Ps 33:4).

Pure - like something refined and made 100% pure and radiant/shining like silver or gold.

19:9: *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the just decrees of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.*

Fear of the LORD - this emphasizes the human response produced by God's word.

Just Decrees/Rules of the LORD - refers to the judicial decisions God has recorded about various human situations, used mostly in Deuteronomy.

Clean - there's nothing sinful about the fear of the LORD; it's the proper response to the law of the LORD.

True/Righteous - refers to the dependability of the word of God; it's like firm footing when you are walking on an icy path.

6 action statements about the Bible:

1. **The Bible revives your soul (19:7).** This refers to spiritual revival as in regeneration and repentance rather than refreshment. The word of God regenerates the soul and continues to revive it after conversion. Ps 23:1-3: "The LORD is my shepherd... he revives my soul."

2. **The Bible renews your mind (19:7).** It makes the simple-minded person wise. A simple person lacks knowledge, understanding, prudence

and discretion, like a youth who lacks experience in the complexities of life. Solomon's Proverbs were written to give understanding to the simple/foolish.

3. **The Bible rejoices your heart (19:8).** After the word of God revives the soul and renews the mind it brings joy to the heart. When my soul is right with God and I'm thinking biblically, I have joy. All the depressing news in the world cannot take God's gift of joy from my heart.

4. **The Bible refocuses your vision (19:8).** It gives light to the eyes. Ps 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." After the word of God revives my soul, renews my mind, rejoices my heart, it refocuses my vision. It enables me to see God's will.

5. **The Bible reorders your values (19:9-10).** Gold and honey were valuable items in David's day. The word of God becomes more desirable to you than gold and sweeter than honey in your morning coffee. When the law of the LORD becomes more precious to you than money and dessert, it is reordering our values, rearranging what is really important to us.

6. **The Bible redirects your path (19:11).** A servant of God is warned of dangerous temptations and final judgment. A warning redirects me from a wrong path to the right path. The reward is blessings in this life and eternal blessedness in heaven with God.

VIP (Very Important Point): The Bible doesn't do this by itself as a book. The Bible as a collection of books has no power by itself. "God's word is not the agent but only the instrument in the renewal of the soul." The HS is the agent working through the word of God. The HS works through the Bible to regenerate, renew, rejoice, refocus, reorder, and redirect. It's perfect TEAMWORK - the Bible and the Holy Spirit. It's perfect teamwork, just as you are a perfect teamwork of body and soul/spirit. Your soul/spirit animates your body. The HS animates the Bible. So, I always pray Psalm 119:18 before reading Scripture.

"Get educated. Think Biblically" is accepting and embracing a Christian worldview: Psalm 24. I do not have time to explain this because this is something that must be taught in class.

Application:

In order to “Get educated and think biblically” go to Bible study on Friday, Sunday, and do personal devotions during the week. Get into the word of God daily, not just Friday or Sunday. Learn to FEED yourself during the week. I use *Tabletalk* devotional. I also get a daily *YouVersion* verse every morning. Read a *YouVersion* Bible devotional.

PRAY: Psalm 19:12-13.