

**Worship in Spirit and in Truth - 6**  
**The Necessity of Scripture**

**Sermon Delivered on September 22nd, 2019**  
**AM Service**

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**Text:**

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24: God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Psalm 19

**Introduction**

One of the things we considered last Sunday is the necessity of the Scripture in worship. The Scripture is necessary to tell us what is worship and how to worship God. If worship is to be acceptable it must be worshiped in truth. In other words, acceptable worship must be according to truth revealed in the Scripture.

Warren Wiersbe defines worship this way, “*Worship is the believers’ response of all that they are—mind, emotions, will, and body—to what God is and says and does ... It is a loving response that’s balanced by the fear of the Lord, and it is a deepening response as the believer comes to know God better.*”

In other words, worship is our spontaneous response to God’s revelation. **Worship is the result of the God revealing Himself.** God from the beginning of time has been active in revealing who He is. He has been active in revealing His character, His person, His works, His ways, His plans, His purposes, His grace, His greatness, His glory. And there are basically two ways in which God reveals Himself to man. And how does He do it? He does it through **general** revelation and **special** revelation.

**1. General Revelation**

First, He makes Himself known through general revelation, that is through creation.

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2: Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3: There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4: Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5: Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6: His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

David recognized that the order and complexity of creation reveals to mankind that God does exist. The heavens, the sky, the mountains, the forests, the animals, the various laws of nature all give evidence that an intelligent mind of a Supreme Being is behind it all.

The Apostle Paul spoke about this in his letter to the Romans.

Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20: For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

In other words, as you look at creation, you will see the fingerprint of God all over it. The world that God created reveals that God does exist. When you look at sun, moon and the stars, when you look at creation, it is so obviously clear that God exists, and that this God is wise, good and powerful.

## 2. Special Revelation

Another way that God reveals Himself to man is through special revelation which is the Scripture.

Psalm 19:7 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 for ever: 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 is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

God has spoken and He has it recorded in His Word, the Bible. God miraculously guided the writers of Scripture to correctly record His message to mankind. God ordained to have the truth regarding Him recorded in written form because He knew oral traditions are inaccurate and unreliable. He also understood that the dreams and visions of man can be misinterpreted. God decided to reveal everything that man needs to know about Him, what He expects, and what He has done for us in the Scripture.

This morning, consider with me three reasons for the necessity of the Scripture, namely, the **Image of God in Man**, the **Infirmity of Man**, and the **Insufficiency of General Revelation**.

### I - The Image of God in Man

One of the factors for the necessity of the Scripture is that the fact that man is made in God's own image.

When God created the vegetation and the animals, He made them all “**after its kind**” or “**after their kind**”. But when God created Adam, we read,

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:

God made man after His likeness. He made man in His own image and likeness. We were made to be image bearers. We were made to resemble God. This does not mean physical resemblance to God, for “**God is a Spirit.**”

[John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.](#)

### **What does it mean made in the image of God?**

To be made in God's image and likeness means that we possess **characteristics that are also found in God**. It is like the way children often reflect the characteristics, mannerisms and appearance of their parents. The image of God refers to the immaterial part of humanity. It is a likeness **mentally, morally, and socially**.

He made man with a **mind to know** God, an **emotion to love** God and a **will to choose** for God. We were created special, so that God could reveal to us who He is and the wonder of His glory. God wants man **to know Him** and **fellowship with Him**. The image of God in mankind gives man the **capacity to commune** with God. God gave man a unique ability **to have a personal relationship** with Him. He has given man **mouths to speak** and **ears to hear** and **minds to think**, so that we may be able **to interact** and **communicate** with Him. But **this would be incomplete** unless God speaks back to us. And one way that God communicates is through the written word of God. So, the image of God in man is one of the reasons for the necessity of the Scripture. It is through the Scripture that God speaks to us and reveals Himself to us.

## **II - The Infirmary of Man**

The second reason for the necessity of the Scripture is the infirmity of man. The infirmity of man consists of his **inability to comprehend** the **general** or **natural revelation** due to his fall in sin. Since the tragic fall of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, that image has been subject to **serious change** and **corruption**. Sin has affected every aspect of our being. It has affected our nature and our eternal destiny. When Adam and Eve chose to rebel against their Creator, they lost their innocence, incurred the penalty of physical and spiritual death, and **their mind was darkened by sin**, as are the minds of his descendants.

This is what we read in the Scripture...

[Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18: Having the \*\*understanding darkened\*\*, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20: But ye have not so learned Christ; 21: If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:](#)

Now the understanding of an unbeliever lacks this knowledge of God. An unbeliever's understanding is not enlightened but darkened.

We also read in ...

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Satan our great enemy has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Since the fall, man **tends to forget**, prone to **misunderstand**, inclined to **neglect the general revelation**. This is the reason scriptural revelation was put in place **to prevent the misinterpretation and manipulation of divine truth** by human thought and speech.

Left to himself, without God's special revelation, man's apprehension of divine things is corrupt. Psalm 50:21 These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; **thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself**: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

And this is why we read in 2 Corinthians 10:4, our imaginations and thoughts and reasonings must be cast down by the power of the Word.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

This is the infirmity of man, and this is one of the reasons why we need the Scripture. In Isaiah 30:8, we read ...

Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

Here, God instructs the prophet to write the Word of God so that it would serve as a witness in the time to come for ever and ever.

### III – The Insufficiency of General Revelation

Another reason for the necessity of the Scripture is the **insufficiency of general revelation**. Creation testifies the existence of God, but creation is not enough. **Nature is enough to tell us that there is a God so as leave us without excuse**. Yes, there are some things that we can know about God from God's creation. Although general revelation leaves us all inexcusable, **the information is incomplete and unclear**. Therefore, **we need fuller and clearer revelation** which can only be received **through the Scripture**. We need God's **gracious self-disclosure** if we are to worship rightly.

**You can look at creation and discover** that God exists and perceive that He is wise, good and powerful. But you can look at creation but **will never discover** the mercy, grace, and forgiveness of God in Christ Jesus. You can look at creation and never discover that God loves you and that He died on the cross for you. This is something that God must reveal to us through special

revelation. And that's why we need the Scripture. The necessity of Scripture refers to man's absolute dependence on God's special revelation in the Scriptures in order to obtain a true knowledge of God and in order to render acceptable worship to God.

Someone has said, *"We need to remember that revelation is not the same as discovery. Imagine that there is a mystery object hidden under a heavy lead box. You can't know what the object is unless the box is taken off. That is what revelation means. The Hebrew word galah means "to make naked, reveal, disclose." Likewise, the Greek word apocalypso means "unveiling, to take the cover off." It isn't as if we discover these truths by our own power. We certainly don't create them. These truths exist, but there is no way we can access them unless God takes the initiative to reveal them to us."*

**Scripture is necessary for genuine knowledge of God.** Jesus Christ is the true revelation of the true God and apart from that revelation, true knowledge of God is impossible. John tells us that Jesus made God known! **Without the written record** of Jesus' explanation of the Father, His revelation of the Father, **we could not truly know God.**

### **Closing Thoughts**

So, let me recap of what we have just learned. Worship is our spontaneous response to God's revelation. Worship is the result of the God revealing Himself. And God reveals Himself through the Scripture. The necessity of the Scripture arises from the image of God in man, the infirmity of man and the insufficiency of general revelation.

In [Psalm 138:1-2](#) we read, *"I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: **for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**"*

God has a very high view of His word! He has exalted His name and His word above all things.

When a king or queen of England is crowned, just after taking their oath they are given a Bible and told, *"Your Majesty, we present you with this Bible, the most precious thing that this world affords."*

Is the Bible the most precious thing in your life? In [Matthew 4:4](#) our Lord said, *"It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**"*

Food is not optional. Food is a necessity and so is God's Word. Make time for God. Make time for God's Word. Your life depends on it.

Let me close with this excerpt from the poem written by C. T. Studd. It really helps us think about the Word of God more deeply. This is what it says:

*The Bible*  
*C. T. Studd (1860-1931)*

*What could we do without the Book  
That God gave us to read?  
No more than any farmer  
Who hadn't any seed!*

*No other tells us of our Lord,  
The God of grace and love,  
Who made the whole creation,  
This world and those above.*

*We couldn't know that God will be  
The Judge of all mankind,  
By the mere dictates of Reason,  
Or the workings of the mind.*

*We shouldn't know God gave His Son,  
To agonize and die,  
To save and teach us sinful men  
To trust Him utterly.*

*We shouldn't know Christ rose again—  
The proof He was the Lord—  
And then ascended up above  
To execute His Word.*

*Be sure, in their originals,  
Each word came straight from God;  
"Yea! every jot and tittle's true,"  
Said Jesus Christ the Lord.*

*Would you be brave and noble?  
Read it every day,  
Not as a duty merely,  
Nor in a slipshod way.*

*Divorce yourself from humbug,  
And cant and lollipops;  
Don't live on milk and water,  
Nor sentimental slops.*

*Mind! you must obey it,  
Otherwise you'll be*

*Branded, as a hypocrite,  
Through eternity.*

*Read it in the morning,  
Meditate and pray,  
Trust the Lord to keep you  
"Straight" throughout the day.*

AMEN!