**Distinguished Speaker**

Dr. Stanley D. Toussaint is Senior Professor Emeritus of Bible Exposition and Adjunct Professor in Bible Exposition at Dallas Theological Seminary. Dr. Toussaint has faithfully taught New Testament studies at the Seminary since 1960 and has pastored for more than 20 years.

A pastor-teacher who is committed to expository preaching, Dr. Toussaint enjoys both roles. In addition to his ministry of teaching at Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Toussaint is an editor, author, teacher, and conference speaker who has taught in Christian schools in the Middle East, Australia, and the Far East. He has also ministered in the pulpit literally around the world.

Dr. Toussaint aptly blends the mix of scholarship with a pastoral heart for God and God’s people. Known as one of the world’s leading authorities on the New Testament, Dr. Toussaint received a B.A. degree from Augsburg College in 1951 and holds both the Th.M. (1955) and Th.D. (1957) degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary.

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In the introduction to his recent chapel message at Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Stanley Toussaint said, “If God has spoken, there’s nothing more important than to listen to what He has said. And He has spoken. In Psalm 19, we see that God has spoken in many ways and has revealed Himself by a number of means. For instance, we can see God in history, and we see that our God is a moral God. No country, no nation long exists if it blatantly disobeys God’s principles. God has also revealed Himself in times past through dreams and visions and today by miracles. Supremely, God has revealed Himself by the Lord Jesus.” In this timely message, Dr. Toussaint shares some benefits of God’s revelation to us in His Word.
In the opening of this message, I intentionally left out two other very important ways God reveals Himself to us: through nature, what is often called general revelation, and through the Bible, or special revelation.

Some people say that’s the outline of Psalm 19: the revelation of God in nature and the revelation of God in the Bible. That is generally true, but it’s not precisely accurate. When you read Psalm 19, you will see that there is nothing said about human life or even the earth. It’s all about the sun, the moon, and the skies. Verses 1–6 of this great psalm speak of God’s revelation of Himself in the skies, not in nature.

The Message of the Psalm
Verses 1–6 make up point one of Psalm 19, which, like all good sermons, has three points. Point two is the revelation of God in the Scriptures (vv. 7–11). Point three is the response of the psalmist (vv. 12–14). There is a tremendous amount of truth in the first paragraph of Psalm 19. However, I want to concentrate on verses 7–11, which speak of the revelation of God in the Scriptures, and talk about seven things the Bible will do for you.

But in order to set the background for verses 7–11, let’s consider briefly the revelation of God in the skies in verses 1–6. Verses 1–2 say: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.”

The psalmist is saying here that the revelation of God in the skies is continuous; literally, “The heavens are declaring, the skies are proclaiming.” Those are participles, action verbs.
There is a continual revelation of God in the skies. There’s not one split second of time when God is not revealing Himself in the skies.

Verse 3 says the revelation of God in the skies is universal, even though “there is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard” (NASB). The skies don’t speak in any language, so any thinking person can see God in the universe.

Then in verses 4–6 the psalmist uses the sun to illustrate God’s revelation in the skies: “In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.”

Isn’t that interesting? The sunrise is like a groom on his wedding day, dressed in his finest. In the Bible, the groom was the main character in a wedding. That’s why the church is the bride of Christ. The main character at the wedding feast is the Lord Jesus. So here, the sun rises like a groom, dressed in his finest.

Then, the revelation of God is like a champion running a race. A champion is in a race to finish it, and he expects to win. The sun, when it starts out in its course, has that kind of an attitude. It makes its circuit, and nothing can escape its heat. Thus is our God. So there is a revelation of God in the skies that any thinking person can see and should conclude that there is a God behind it.

GOD’S REVELATION IN SCRIPTURE
Now we come to verses 7–11, which speak of the revelation of God in the Scriptures and those seven benefits that God’s Word can have in your life. Notice the immediate change in vocabulary. Verse 7 begins, “The law of the LORD is perfect.” Back in verse 1, we read: “The heavens declare the glory of God.” The word for God in verse 1 is Elohim, which simply
means “a mighty one, a god.” As we look at the magnificence of the skies, we realize there is such a being as we would call God. But we don’t know who it is.

But the second half of Psalm 19 tells us who it is because the psalmist uses the word Lord, which is printed in large and small capital letters in all of our English translations. This is the name of God that normally translates to “Jehovah.” In other words, the God who has inscribed His name across the face of the skies is none other than the God who has given us the Bible. That’s why there’s the change in vocabulary.

Beginning in verse 7 and continuing in rapid succession, we read a number of descriptions of the Bible and what it can do for us. They are all interesting, and they all give a somewhat different emphasis or aspect of the Bible. They also tell us at least seven things the Bible will do for you—seven benefits of applying God’s Word to your heart and life. It’s here that I want to put the emphasis as we consider the second half of Psalm 19.

1. THE BIBLE WILL RESTORE YOU
The first of these seven things the Bible will do for you is found in verse 7: “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul” (restoring, NASB). That’s exactly what you have in Psalm 23:3: “[The Lord] restores my soul.”

This word “restoring” has the idea of refreshing or encouraging us. The Word of God replaces our weakness and weariness of soul with strength and vitality, so that, as Isaiah 40:31 says, “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

2. THE BIBLE WILL MAKE YOU WISE
A second thing the Bible will do for you is to make you wise.
The psalmist continued: “The statutes of the **Lord** are trustworthy, making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7b). The Word of God won’t make you more intelligent; it will make you wiser.

There is a huge difference in these two things. I have seen brilliant people make very foolish decisions. And conversely, I have seen very simple, ordinary people make wise decisions because their priorities were right. Where do you obtain this kind of wisdom? From God’s Word.

### 3. THE BIBLE WILL GIVE YOU JOY

According to the first half of Psalm 19:8, “The precepts of the **Lord** are right, giving joy to the heart.” The presence or absence of joy is a dead giveaway as to the impact, or lack of impact, the Word of God is having in your life.

One of the great subthemes of the Book of Acts is the joy those early disciples had in their worship and service to the Lord. The apostles even came away from a flogging at the hands of the Jewish council “rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name” (Acts 5:41). The apostles had been preaching the name of Jesus, the gospel that we now have contained in written form in the Bible. God’s Word rejoices the heart.

### 4. THE BIBLE WILL BE YOUR SPIRITUAL “VITAMIN”

A fourth thing the Bible will do for you is become your spiritual vitamin. “The commands of the **Lord** are radiant, giving light to the eyes” (Psalm 19:8b). We tend to think that when this verse speaks of enlightening the eyes, it means the same thing as making you wiser. But that’s not what the verse means. It literally says that God’s Word “will give you bright eyes.” When
you look at a person, you can often tell how they are feeling by looking at their eyes. If their eyes are bright and healthy, that shows where the person is. The eyes reflect health and spiritual vitality.

There is a great example of this in 1 Samuel 14. It’s the story of King Saul’s son Jonathan, who was engaging the Philistines and “cleaning their clocks.” But then Saul got into the fray, and we read: “Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, ‘Cursed be any man who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!’ So none of the troops tasted food” (v. 24).

Jonathan and his men had been in a heavy battle that day, and they were hungry. Read on in verses 25–29 and you’ll see that the Israelite army came to a place in the woods where sweet honey was oozing out onto the ground. The men were faint with hunger, and they really wanted to eat that honey and be refreshed, but none dared touch it because of Saul’s oath.

But Jonathan didn’t know what his father had said, so he ate some of the honey. When his men told him about the king’s curse, Jonathan replied, “My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened when I tasted a little of this honey” (v. 29). That’s what I want you to see. Just as food refreshes and strengthens the body, the Word of God will strengthen you. It will give you “bright eyes” because it will be your spiritual vitamin.

5. THE BIBLE WILL BE YOUR ENDURING HOPE
Verses 9–10 of Psalm 19 read: “The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.”
There is nothing that can wear away the Word of God; it endures forever. In another psalm we are told: “Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens” (Psalm 119:89). The prophet wrote: “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

We have already seen the beneficial qualities of honey for the body and how those compare to the effect the Word of God can have on your spirit. If you build your life and your hope on the foundation of the Bible, not only will it never collapse or erode beneath you, it will feed you with the finest of spiritual food.

6. THE BIBLE WILL WARN YOU OF DANGER
The final two things the Bible will do for you are found in Psalm 19:11. Number six of these is that the Bible warns you of the dangers around you. “By them [that is, the teachings of God’s Word] is your servant warned” (v. 11a).

This one doesn’t need a lot of explanation. The Bible both marks out for us the path God wants His people to follow and warns us of the danger and foolishness of disobeying Him and wandering off into sin.

7. THE BIBLE WILL TELL YOU OF GOD’S REWARDS
Psalm 19:11 concludes with this promise concerning God’s Word and our response to it: “In keeping [God’s commands] there is great reward.” There is great reward both in this life and in the life to come for those who believe and keep God’s Word.

Given all these wonderful benefits, the one question that is most important for us to ask ourselves is, How do we listen
to God’s Word? We have the psalmist’s response in verses 12–14: “Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.” In other words, “Keep me back from planning to sin.”

That’s an honest response to the revelation of God in the Bible. If we are honest before the Word, we are going to see a revelation of God. And whenever a person sees the revelation of God, the first things he sees, without exception, are his own sins. We could name Job, Isaiah, and Peter, just to select a few. When we see God in His holiness, all we can do is cry out and admit our sinfulness. If we submit ourselves to the Word of God, we will see our own sin.

That’s the negative response, but there is also the positive. “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.” The psalmist was saying, “Let my thoughts, my vocabulary, my words be like a sweet-smelling sacrifice in your sight.” If God has spoken, there is nothing more important than to listen to Him.

How do you listen to God’s Word? I urge you to put yourself under the Word of God and be like Samuel, who said, “Speak, Lord, your servant hears.” Simply put yourself under the Word of God. If it deals with sin, deal with sin. Live in simple obedience so that your life pleases Him. That’s the goal of our lives, to be well-pleasing to God. Love His Word, and your life will please Him most.
Like his colleagues J. Dwight Pentecost and Howard Hendricks, Dr. Stanley Toussaint is another beloved, long-time professor and champion of God’s Word at Dallas Theological Seminary. Dr. Toussaint’s ministry at DTS, which began in 1960, also spans an era of incredible advances in technology—all the way from incredible chalkboards to today’s virtual classrooms.

Through it all, our school has been committed to use the best of available technology to teach the timeless truths of God’s Word and to equip our students for ministry in the 21st century.

This issue of Veritas illustrates this balance. Dr. Toussaint is “vintage DTS” in the best sense of that term. He believes God’s Word with all of his heart and teaches it with precision of conviction and exposition and with a love for people. Yet, unlike many people of his generation, Dr. Toussaint doesn’t refuse to embrace the good that technology can do. Technological advance that helps DTS disseminate the ministry of a godly leader like Dr. Stan Toussaint to a worldwide audience is a blessing to the kingdom of God!

Many people are nervous about all the new technology—and like any form of media, technology can be used for wrong purposes. What we need is a “theology of technology” that helps us understand and react to this human production from the perspective of Scripture.

Our featured book this issue is a great step forward in that direction. John Dyer is a graduate of the Seminary and an experienced Web developer and writer on technology and culture. I urge you to send for a copy of From the Garden to the City.

I count myself among the many people impacted by the ministry of Dr. Stan Toussaint. That’s why I am delighted to share his biblical wisdom with you. This Veritas comes to you with my very heartfelt appreciation for your faithful support of Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Mark L. Bailey, President
Dallas Theological Seminary
In Appreciation for Your Support of Dallas Theological Seminary

Dallas Theological Seminary graduate John Dyer (Th.M.) has done the church a great service in his must-read book on technology and its impact on our lives. Consider this provocative quote:

“When technology has distracted us to the point that we no longer examine it, it gains the greatest opportunity to enslave us.”

One Christian leader who read From the Garden to the City said, “It’s frequently funny, surprisingly moving, and consistently smart—a great guide for those who want to begin thinking about how technology shapes us and how we can live faithfully with it.”

Find out for yourself what lies ahead for the “marriage” of technology and faith!