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**No One Can Escape the Heat**  
Psalm 19

In order to accommodate the rapid growth in the Portland-Vancouver area. Incredibly, the Department of Transportation decided to build a new freeway and connecting bridge. The Project Engineer on the job was a gruff old guy, but he had a soft spot in his heart for ants. Yes, he loved ants. Ever since he was a kid and had one of those ant farms he loved to watch them build their homes and work. The problem was that in the very place where the new I-206 would go there was a very large ant hill. It pained him to think the bulldozers would just decimate this beautiful ant hill. So he went to his inventor friend. He said I know you have been working on building a shrinking machine. I would like you to try it out on me, so I could warn those ants that danger is coming and they really need to move their hill off to the side to avoid being destroyed. And that's exactly what they did. The inventor shrunk the Project Engineer down to ant size and deposited him onto the ant hill. Now the Engineer had studied the ants his whole life and knew that even though the ants do not verbally speak, they can communicate with hand gestures. So with kind of a modified ant-like sign language, the man was able to warn them of the big bulldozer that was heading their way. You must move your ant hill or else you will get run over. I will show you where the safe place is if you just follow me. You would think the ants would be very interested. You would think they would at least listen, O they could understand what He was trying to communicate, but they were far too busy doing other things. If you have ever watched ants, these are very, very busy little creatures. The Engineer pleaded, please, please listen. You are going to be wiped out, The effects of my ant-size are going to wear off soon, you must follow me to safety.

Are Engineers able to shrink themselves and communicate with ants? No. Does God communicate to mankind, humans on earth? Is it even possible to know God in a personal way? The agnostic assumes that God has not communicated with people in some Divine Revealing of Himself, therefore, the agnostic believes that it is impossible for people to

know God. Even if there somehow may indeed be a God. To know Him would be an impossible task. He limits himself to human discovery, only to what He can touch and feel and reason. He limits himself to viewing things only from a human perspective eliminating any option for the supernatural, or supernatural to enter into his close system.

Yet, we read in Genesis 1 that God has made man in his own image. God has created man with a God-like image, a capacity to commune with Him, to have a relationship with Him, to understand and communicate with Almighty God. It is reasonable to assume since we are made in His image with a God created capacity to communicate with people, God would in fact communicate with us. He would in fact disclose to man the truths He wanted them to know. Now by reason we can come up with all sorts of facts and conclusions which relate to God, but reason itself would never be able to deduce the infinite truth contained in God's Word. God's truth transcends human reason.

Human reason can lead us to observe our surroundings and note that there must indeed be a infinitely wise Creator. God has revealed, communicated to us through the many intricacies of nature, but in spite of the natural revelation, men have turned their backs on God in rebellion and willful ignorance. People foolishly create idols to represent a god they don't even know. They keep worshipping other idols just like the pagans. The god of materialism, the lust for more and more. The god of laziness, the lust for career success and the enticement of power and self propelled significance that is fueled by a booming business. Where do you spend all your time and energy? That may give you a clue as to where your true god is. The idol of recreation? The idol of pleasure? What about the idol of family? Do they take priority over all else and even God? Is your family so all consuming that it often takes the place of knowing God? What about the church? Have you become addicted to religiosity? Is the ministry and church business all consuming so that you so that it only offers you an empty substitute for the real thing instead of fanning into flame a thirst and love for God? What are your idols this morning? Anything that comes above and between you and god. Romans 1:19-25  
READ "Since the creation of the world, God has clearly communicated...so they are without excuse. They knew God but became

fools, deciding instead to ignore God's communication to people and worship the creation rather than the Creator.

Has God communicated with people on the earth? Is it possible to really know God in a personal way? If so...then what should be my response. I read the passage in Romans to set the stage for this morning's text out of Psalm chapter 19. This Psalm clearly lays out the fact that God has indeed communicated to mankind and is far superior to the gods worshipped by pagans. It is helpful to know some historical background. The pagan culture of the Ancient Near East was full of immoral and degrading ideas of religion and practice. There were male and female deities and gods that were thought to be influenced by sacrifice, and ritual. The Babylonians were astrological worshipping the stars and moon and sun. Modern Archeologists uncovered an ancient Babylonian text entitled "Hymn to the Sun". In it there are striking similarities comparing the sun to the radiance of a bridegroom coming out of his wedding chamber. The text also describes the sun-god as the giver of law and order and justice, knowing and serving all. Critics of Psalm 19 say that the Bible borrowed and applied ancient religious themes and mended them into their own. But on the contrary. The God fearing Yahweh worshippers did not worship the sun, but living in the culture around them they gave a ready answer to those who exchanged the truth for a lie and worshipped the creation, the sun instead of the Creator, the one who placed the sun in position. This Psalm is a slam dunk apologetic against the falsehood of the pagan religions of the day that worshipped the creation over the creator. In Psalm 19 the sun is not a god to be worshipped and sacrificed to, but a dominant witness in the sky to display God's power in creation. It puts the sun in proper place. The sun does not bring justice, order and law. It is the specific revelation of God to mankind found in the Scriptures that do. Read with me Psalm 19 as a case against the pagan agnostic who says, God did not communicate with humans, therefore we cannot know him. Read with me Psalm 19 as a defense against those who worship the creation rather than the creator. God has clearly revealed and communicated with mankind. Both in the more general revelation of His creation, nature and in the more specific revelation His written Word, the Bible. READ.

Has God revealed Himself and communicated with people? There is nothing hidden from His heat, He has communicated through His Works and His Words. Ist. God has revealed Himself through His Works. verse 1. The heavens are telling. note the present progressive tense. They are continuing to keep on telling of God's glory. All nature screams out pours forth, declares the glory and work of His hands. One must be blind not to see it. When the Russian cosmonauts went up into space for the first time, they thought it was very cute to proclaim to the world, "We are up here in heaven and certainly don't see any God up here." They were blind to the beauty of God's creation around them. God's fingerprints were all around. They should have been awestruck at his creation. What is it in God's creation that fills you most with a sense of God's glory? Standing next to the roar of the powerful ocean waves? A walk in a forest of towering fir trees? A view from the top of a mountain? a quiet moment by a babbling brook? An easy chair under the shade of a maple tree, near a garden of flowers? Standing in an early morning stream with light fog lifting it's fingers to greet the day? Does staring into the night sky fill you with a sense of God's glory? What about the awesome power of a lightning storm?

Nikola Tesla was the scientist-genius who invented the method of generating electricity in what we call the alternating current. Tesla had spent years researching electricity and during storms he would sit on his black mohair couch near a window and when the lightning struck, he would clap his hands and applaud. One genius recognizing the work of another far greater. Tesla could appreciate better than anyone the wonder and power of lightning because he had studied it for years. The more we know God and recognize, the more we glory in the Creator when we see the creativeness in His creation, the more deeply we will applaud His mighty deeds and appreciate God's efforts at communicating to we humans. What is it in God's creation that causes you to stop in awe and wonder being filled with a sense of God's glory?

Verse 2 and 3. Day after day night after night looking at God's artistic creation reveals knowledge of the creator. so that in Romans 1:19 we are all without excuse. His attributes, power, divine nature are clearly understood. No excuses. We cannot ignorantly stand by and say, "I didn't realize" "But no one ever explained it to me" "But I didn't have the

example I could have responded to." Each of us, from those in the deepest jungles of Africa to the deepest jungles of our cities all will be held accountable to the degree that God has revealed Himself to them. If God in His infinite wisdom can reveal Himself to us giving us the opportunity to respond, then He will do the same for all people. There is no other way to God other through Jesus, but God is loving not desiring any to perish but all come to repentance. There have been many stories of missionaries coming into jungle tribes never having contact with modern world when told about Jesus they have said we finally know the name of the one we have been worshipping for many years, the son of the God who created all things.

God wants us to know Him. It is..possible to know God because He has revealed Himself to us. Expanse, or heavens are declaring, speeches are poured out everyday, knowledge is revealed. Verse 3 No audible words are spoken yet the message, the line goes out as the artistry stands for the Artist and all who open their eyes will marvel at the message that penetrates the whole earth.

The end of verse 4 begins the description similar to the Babylonian text, Hymn to the sun-god. Yet, the difference is that the sun is placed by God, the Creator, not a god himself. The sun come up over the hills in a sunrise, like an excited bridegroom on his wedding day, beaming with radiant joy. The sun races across the sky, nothing will stop it's progress, just like a strong athlete racing around a track to the finish line....determination. Look at the end of verse 6, nothing can hide from its heat. The sun is a dominating influence in the heavens. Even seeds buried deep in the ground feel and respond to its effects. It brings warmth to all. Yet, the sun is not a God but only a creation of God Almighty. The sun is but another piece of communication from God to man saying, look who I am. I provide light and warmth. Everytime you feel the sun on your face you must admit that there is a god. He has revealed himself to us through His creation.

Just as the heavens are under the dominating influence of the sun, so also the Scriptures are a dominating influence. One reveals the general and natural grace of God and the other communicates the specific grace and revelation of God to man. Nothing can hide from the invasive heat of God's Word. Whether one rebels against God or not the

truth is still there. The heat of God's Word is valid in fact in Hebrews 4:12 it says that the Word of the God is living and active and sharper than any two edged sword, and piercing as far as the dividing of soul and spirit of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. and there is no creature hidden from His sight but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him. For some the light of truth, the heat of the Word, exposure leaves you feeling naked and vulnerable, it makes you want to run and hide in your guilt and sin. You run but you cannot hide. For some the fragrance of life is the truth that they breathe. For some there is peace, purity, rest, security, wisdom. The word of God is consumed and tastes sweet as honey and is as valuable as pure gold. Yes, God has communicated to humans, through creation, His Word, but also through specific words in the Holy Scriptures, The Bible. His words are truth and inspired by God as Holy prophets and men of God wrote down what God inspired them, or breathed into them, and God in His providence has preserved for us today. II Timothy 3:15 All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching for reproof for correction for instruction in righteousness that the man and woman of God may be equipped for every good work.

Read what David says about God's specific communication to humans. Seven qualities of God's words. The Law of the Lord. David had been using God more general name, El. Now uses His personal name Yahweh. The Laws of God are perfect. They restore the soul. They can restore or bring one back to the original condition. Breathe new life into the old and worn out. God's words are transforming, life changing. The truth that God communicated to mankind can change your motives, attitudes, selfishness, idols, sin. It can restore your relationship with God that has been severed. The Testimony of the Lord is sure. The witness of God affirms that the facts are true. The Divine revelation or eyewitness account of the situation is sure, and will make the simple seem so wise who follow the truth. The precepts of the Lord are right. The principles, commands, instructions intended to be followed as a rule for living are right on created to bring great rejoicing to the heart. The Law of God is not a burden to those believers to seek to keep the law. It is a pain in the neck only to the rebel who cares little for following God's ways and only to satisfy self.

The commandment of the Lord is pure. The one who gives us the commands, Our Great commander is not harsh or tainted with impure motives and would demand our blind obedience. Our great commander is pure and loving thinking and moving in our best interest. It will not shut us down, but enlighten our eyes to the truth. The more we follow God the more we will see of Him. The Fear of the Lord is clean and will endure forever. When we fear, or reverently awe our Lord, this will keep us from dirty sin. It will keep us clean.

I think sometimes we can get far to casual or flippant with God. We let denigrating words for God slip out of our mouths when we are angry or hurt. We call Him the big man up stairs. We lack a healthy awe of God, because we really don't understand who He is and what He has done. We don't grasp the importance of God, so we take Him for granted. The associated press reported that the state medical board suspended the license of a neurosurgeon in Wilmington, North Carolina after an investigation turned up some remarkably casual behavior in the middle of brain surgery. The reports states that during one operation, as the patients brain was exposed, the neurosurgeon left the operation room for 25 minutes to go and have some lunch. While at lunch, no other physician was present in the operation room to care for the patient. In another case the neurosurgeon told a nurse to drill holes in a patients head and do some work on the outer brain even though she had never been trained for such procedures. When a person regularly deals with some awesome things, he or she can become too familiar and too casual with them. We must guard against that ever happening with the sacred things of God. Do we fear God? That will keep us clean, no fear of investigation.

The judgments of the Lord are true, righteous altogether. When God pronounces a decision it is always the wisest decision to be made. God's word is better than fine Gold and pure honey. Valuable and sweet to the taste. A careful heeding of their warnings will bring great reward.

When we are tempted to think that it is impossible to really know God, its time for us to look around and realize that God wants to be known. He has revealed Himself in His Work and His Word. More generally in His creative acts and specifically in His written Word. Because He has communicated and created us with the capacity to

commune...icate, being made in his image. We can know God. We no longer have to run and worship the creation, we can worship the creator Himself. We have no excuses. No one can escape the heat of His moving toward us. We have no excuse not to follow His precepts. In the face of Gods' revelation we have but one response. The only proper response in self examination. How well am I following such a God who has communicated to me? David looks inside His heart in verse 12. The proper response to God's communication to us, is to get right with God. God keeping all of your precepts can be tough. I can't even see everything. God show me the blatant areas where I am snubbing your will, going against you. God in those areas that are hidden to me God, set me free from them. I want to be right with you God, I know that in addition to the times I willfully violate your laws sometimes I go against you unknowingly, blindly, yet pridefully. God I don't want to overstep my independence. I don't want to be ruled by sins. I don't want to be overcome by evil. I want to make things right before you so I can then be found blameless. God let my words and attitudes be acceptable in your sight. Keep my mind fixed on you. My Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer.

Are you amazed this morning that the God of the universe wants to commune with you? Has revealed himself to you? Does it humble you to your knees, to look inside your soul? To allow the Word to pierce down into even the thoughts and intentions of the heart? Let us have a quiet time of meditation, praying before God asking Him to lift anything to the surface in our lives that might be offensive to Him, anything that you would be embarrassed if the person sitting next to you knew about. sin. The deeper we go with God should not produce a flippant familiarity but an awesome respect. There is a God He has communicated with us and wants us to know Him.