

Sermon Summary – March 8, 2015, Pastor Alan Smith

“Reviving the Soul”

Do you remember the revival services that churches held? One week of special services to revive the people of the church. The purpose was to fire up the members and have them be more dedicated to God. Do we need a special service or program to revive us? What does revive mean? According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, **Revive – to return to consciousness or life, become active or flourishing again, to restore to consciousness or life, to restore from a depressed, inactive, or unused state, bring back.** Do you feel like you need to be revived?

In Psalm 19, the first six verses talk about how creation itself displays God's glory. Have you ever just stood outside at night and looked up? Have you ever marveled at some of the things that are in creation? The butterfly? The flowers of spring? Even the fact that every snowflake is different! Those things we take for granted like the sun rising and setting every day – the glory in creation is God's glory. The glory of His creating power, listen to the language in **Psalm 19 1 The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. 2 Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. 3 They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. 4 Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. 5 It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. 6 The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.**

In the Psalm, David then moves from creation to the law of the creator. There are five different words I want to look at and their effect on us. **Vs.7 The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul.**

The first word is instructions. The Hebrew word for instructions is torah. Torah means the entire law. The entire law of God is perfect, complete without defect. It revives the soul. So God's word restores from a depressed, inactive, or unused state. In the New Testament Paul writes to Timothy;

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

God's word teaches, corrects, and prepares us. We could say that it's important for us to be familiar with all of God's word, not just parts of it. It is all of God's word that brings life to our souls. It revives us. Brings us out of an inactive state. Teaches us and prepares us for the good work that God has for us.

The second part of **vs 7 The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.** Decree is a statement made under oath or part of a covenant. That oath gives wisdom to those who don't have any. Think of the covenant that God has made with us that through Jesus all that believe in Him would have eternal life or that Jesus will never leave or forsake us: the promise that Jesus went to prepare a place for us. How about the promise that Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to be our guide and comfort? All these promises are trustworthy or reliable. You can count on them!!!

In verse **8 The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart.** Commandments are rules of personal conduct. God's rules that govern how we should act are in conformity with the law and they bring us joy. I believe someone that gets joy from God's word will be revived.

In the second part of verse 8 **The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.** The word for **commands** is authoritative instructions and they are pure, without fault. Here is how the NIV Bible states that verse **The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.** God's commands give us light for our lives. Here are a few verses that also tell us about God's word being light to us.

Psalm 119:105 (NLT)

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

Psalm 119:130 (NLT)

130 The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

Remember 2 Timothy scripture?

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

If you want to know how you should live, read the Bible. Study the Bible. Hide His words in your heart!

The last word that describes God's word is laws. Verse 9b.**The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair.** The meaning of laws is simply the determination of what is right and wrong in legal

matters. His laws are true and are a dependable statement. They are fair. We have had laws in our land that weren't fair. Slavery and segregation are a couple examples, but God's laws are not like that! We can count on them to be fair.

10 They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. 11 They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them. 12 How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me.

His word is to be desired like the finest gold or the sweetest honey. If we have His word in our heart those words will help us see our sins. Do we desire to know His word? Do you crave it? Is your heart in need of being revived? Do we pray as David prayed in verse 14? **14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you?** Do you desire to please God? With your words and thoughts? Do you need to be revived? Read His word and allow His word revive you.