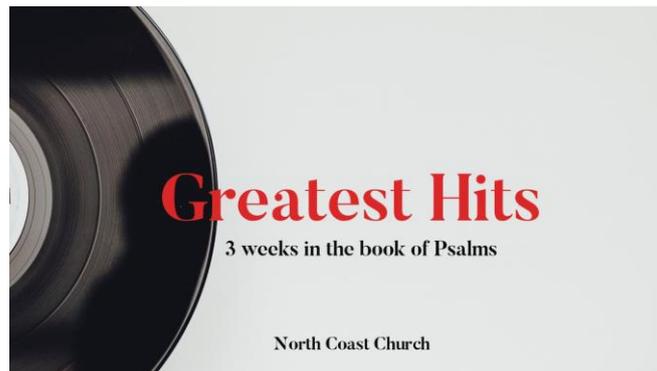


Greatest Hits - Psalm 19



Introduction

Think about the songs in your life that have changed your perspective on things. Or perhaps songs that are memorable for some reason at a certain time in life. Write down a couple of songs that have meaning to you, and have each person in the group discuss what one song is, and why it means something to them.

Read through Psalm 19

Take note of the three divisions in the text (Steve mentioned them in the sermon)

- i. The Universal Creator God (vv1-6)*
- ii. The Particular Saviour God (7-11)*
- iii. The Personal Intimate God (12-14)*

1. The Universal Creator God (vv1-6)

Question: In what ways do the heavens declare the glory of God? Discuss the manner in which the universe is praising Him.

Are there those within your group who came to a conclusion before they were Christian that there must be a God, because the created order was just too well put together and could not have come from nothing?

Do you have friends or family members who remain unconvinced by the revelation of God via the created order?

Question: Read vv3-4. Do you see the tension of the speech that is not heard? How might this inform us when we can see the “blindingly obvious” fact of the universe having been created, when others see the same universe, but come to very different conclusions.

Question: Read vv5-6. Since this is a song it provides metaphors to describe how the sun works. No Jewish person thought that the sun was a bridegroom or a runner. The Bible is rich in metaphor, especially in the Psalms. Why are metaphors good ways to describe reality?

Observation: The ancient pagan nations – apart from Israel – were prone to worshipping the created order when they saw its wonder, rather than worshipping the Creator. But according to Romans 1, this is not something exclusive to the ancient pagans. Read Romans 1:18-25. What does worshipping the creation instead of the Creator lead us to doing?

2. The Particular Saviour God (vv7-11)

Discuss. Do you know anyone (or perhaps it's your own story) where the abstract idea of a universal god who may or may not have existed and may or may not have created things, became the real God of the Lord Jesus Christ who saved them (or you!)? What made the difference?

Observation: The Psalm switches from a universal view of God to a particular view about God, one in which the voice that is unheard in the first six verses is suddenly available to be heard through the law of God. Remember that the story of God saving people begins when he speaks with them.

Have a look at the following:

1. Genesis 12:1-2
2. Genesis 28:10-17
3. Exodus 3:1-15
4. Isaiah 6:1-8
5. Hebrews: 1:1-2

What do these have in common with each other? What differences are there?

Observation: Now read through Psalm 19:7-11.

1. *Note down the list of different words that are used as synonyms/descriptors for law of God. What nuances do the different terms give?*
2. *Go through the verses again and note down the list of qualities attributed to the law of God.*
3. *Once again go through the verses and note down the benefits that the law of God brings to people.*

When we put this together, what benefits do you think there are for the people of God when they live according to His law?

Jesus had as high a view of God's reveal law as the Psalmist did (c.f., Matthew 5:17-20). He said that he came to "fulfil the law", not to do away with it. In what way did Jesus fulfil God's law (It would be worth having a read of [this article by John Piper](#) in preparation for this discussion).

3. The Personal Intimate God (vv12-14)

This is a good time to spend time together praying. Discuss with each other how best to confess our sins with each other (and perhaps to think through who you specifically might talk to encourage each other to keep living for Jesus and not allow either hidden faults or wilful sins to lead you away from Jesus. Growth Groups are not the place to be specific about everything, but the Bible does say that we can confess sin to each other, and enable each other to live more godly lives. Perhaps this session can be the start of that for someone. If you need to speak to someone privately to confess something that can be done also, just make sure that it's a safe pastoral place to do so.

Perhaps your group can finish with a song of audible praise to the One who the universe is already praising silently!