

Series: Psalms

Title: The Sun of Righteousness

Text: Psalm 19: 1-6

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Psalm 19: 1: «To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.» 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.

The glory of God and the work of his hands are declared in God's creation. Therefore, every sinner who does not worship God is without excuse because "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." (Rom 1: 20) But in these first six verses of this Psalm, we see much more than that typified by God's creation. We see in God's creation the glory, and the work of his hands, in that spiritual creation made by Christ Jesus his Son. All things that God made in creation by Christ were created to glorify God in Christ.

Colossians 1: 16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

THE RISING SUN

First, the rising sun shows us a picture of the rising of Christ from the grave, "which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber." The sun is a type of Christ Jesus. We read in Malachi 4: 2, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall." The glory of the morning sun rising on the horizon pictures the resurrection glory of Christ. In the Mount when Christ was transfigured before the apostle Peter, scripture says, "his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." (Mt 17: 2)

Our text says, "the sun is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber." Christ is the Bridegroom and all his elect are his bride. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Eph 5: 25) The "chamber" is the room where preparations are made just before the marriage. But we usually think of the bride as being the one in her chamber, preparing herself, getting ready to emerge for all to see her beauty. So why is the bridegroom in his chamber? In grace, the bride is a harlot in herself! We are dirty, polluted, and disgraceful in ourselves. Our beauty is Christ!

So instead of the bride being in her chamber preparing herself, Christ was in his chamber in this earth, representing his bride, giving himself for his bride, washing his bride from her sins in his own blood, perfuming his bride in his ointments, robing his bride in the snow white dress of his righteousness, "that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph 5: 27)

Therefore, while Christ was in his chamber, in this earth, this whole earth was darkness except for him. He is the DayStar who visited us, the Light-shining in a dark place. (Lu 1: 78; 2 Pet 1: 19) When the sun goes down all is dark. The sun is in its chamber. On Calvary's tree, when Christ laid down his life for his bride, the sun refused to shine; darkness covered the earth. When he gave up the Ghost, he retired to that chamber in the dark tomb.

But when the new day comes, the morning sun arises from beneath the earth in great glory “as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber.” Having accomplished the work for his bride, on the third day—the new day began. Christ Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, arose with healing in his wings. Our Bridegroom emerged from his chamber with more glory than the morning sun.

His glory is our glory—the glory for his bride. Be sure to get this. Christ coming out of his chamber in his resurrection glory was his bride coming out of her chamber in her resurrection glory. Christ presenting himself to the Father was Christ presenting his bride to the Father and to himself in all her chaste glory! “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” (Rom 7: 4)

I want every believer here to get this down in your heart. You wake early in the morning, head to your job, with a thousand cares weighing heavy on your heart. They are legitimate cares: cares for those under your influence who you love. But each morning as you see the sun arise from his chamber in all his morning glory, remember, Christ has perfected us forever by his one offering. Proof is he arose! He is not in the tomb, not in his chamber anymore, he is alive forevermore. We are risen in him and seated at God’s right hand in all his glory. And he is ever living to make intercession for us. (Col 3: 1-4; Heb 7: 25) That’ll put a stride in your step!

A TABERNACLE FOR THE SUN

Secondly, we see what God the Father has given his Son. Speaking of the heavens and the firmament, our text says, “In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.” (Ps 19: 4)

God the Father promised his Son glory as the GodMan when he finished the work of redemption. Therefore, because Christ declared the righteousness of God, God raised his Son. After Christ declared God just and the Justifier of his people, God raised him to great glory giving him a tabernacle to dwell in, a house, a dwelling place.

Hebrews 8: 1: Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2: A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

“The sanctuary” is the holiest of holies in the heavens at the right hand of God, where Christ now ministers, from his throne, as the Advocate with the Father for his people. (1 Jn 2: 1) “And the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man” is his church. In particular, the “true tabernacle” is each redeemed, regenerated saint in whom Christ dwells in Spirit. (Eph 2: 21-22; 2 Cor 6: 16) “In them”—in his church and people—“God hath set a tabernacle for the Sun” of Righteousness. Remember when the ark went to its place? It went to “Bethshemesh.” It means “the tabernacle or house for the sun.” (1 Sam 6: 12)

Brethren, we are the house of the risen Sun of righteousness. That is how real the scriptures declare our unity with Christ. We are seated with him in glory yet he abides in us on this earth. Brethren, don’t miss God’s reminder unto us each new day! He makes the sun rise each morning in all its glory just to remind us of this glorious good news! Every day when you see that sun rise, rejoice, the Sun of Righteousness has arisen and there I sit in him at God’s right hand in all his glory. And when you feel the heat of the sun in this earth, rejoice, now Christ dwells in us, his tabernacle.

A STRONG MAN TO RUN A RACE

Next, we see what Christ is doing now, “and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.” (Ps 19: 5) In the morning, when the sun rises, it comes forth strong, unstoppable. And it has a race to run, “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.” (Ps 19: 6) So it is with our risen King and Savior. He arose to shine forth in ineffable glory as the King of heaven and earth, that he might be a glorious bridegroom, in whom his church might be unspeakably happy. He arose to call out each of his

blood-bought sheep, that he might “fill all in all.” (Eph 1: 22-23) Therefore, we see here a picture of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, who is the true Strongman rejoicing to run his race.

He “rejoiceth” and we rejoice in him because Christ is the “strong Man.” Man would sooner stop the sun on its course, than stop the Sun of Righteousness on his! As he did not fail to set judgment in the earth on the cross, he shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he has set judgment in the heart of each of his people. (Is 42: 4)

Be sure to understand: the tabernacle Christ dwells in on this earth is you and me, who are born of him. As unstoppable as the morning sun, Christ goes forth dwelling in his people. In his people, from the east to the west he runs his race, in his circuit from one end of heaven to the other end. Christ scatters his beams among men through the word which he speaks through his people. By his Light, through the gospel, he draws his people to himself:

Isaiah 60: 1: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2: For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Remember when all was dark in Egypt; the children of Israel had light. (Ex 10: 22-23) So it is with us who he has given light in the midst of this dark world. Here is what Christ works through his people by his Light as he draws his people to himself.

Isaiah 60: 3: And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. 4: Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

Believers are Christ’s new creation, the new firmament, the new tabernacle, in which Christ the Sun of Righteousness dwells. He gives us light to give light upon the earth like he did in the first creation.

Genesis 1: 16: And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17: And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18: And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

Believers get our light from Christ like the moon and stars get light from the sun. Christ rules the day, every day and every night, from on high. His people rule the night of this earth for we are the light of the world getting our light from Christ. By his light he separates the light from the darkness.

THE LIGHT AND THE HEAT

Christ’s Light and Heat is the Truth of the gospel which we preach, by which Christ draws his people.

Psalm 43:3: O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

Notice how the text goes from speaking of “the heat of the sun’s light” to speaking of “the word of the LORD.” The heat is his word, his gospel, “there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.” (Ps 19: 6-7) So as Christ dwells in his church—his gospel which is his light and his heat—goes forth through the gospel which Christ gives us to preach. Therefore, all shall hear his gospel.

The heavens and firmament are a type of his people, and the gospel we preach, because all God’s true people do exactly what our text says the heavens and the firmament do, “the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (Ps 19: 1) We declare only “the glory of God.” Our gospel is concerning the Excellency of God: his righteousness and justice; his mercy and faithfulness, the praise and honor due unto God

alone is the glory of God we preach. We have nothing to glory in! “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom 3: 23) Also, we declare “the work of his hands.” His true people declare the great work of Christ in redeeming all his elect people from our sins on the cross, along with his work of sanctifying us from the power of darkness into his glorious kingdom by the work of his Son, Christ Jesus, within his people. The only time our message concerns the works of men is to declare that outside of faith in Christ, all our works are filthy rags, vanity, corrupt and sin. Or to teach believers to adorn his doctrine in our walk so that as we preach Christ, all eyes will be on Christ alone, rather than looking to charge us with sin.

2 Corinthians 4: 5: For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Everyone, everywhere, hear the word of the heavens and the firmament and are left without excuse. So it is with our gospel. Be sure to mark these words in our text, “*There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*” (Ps 19: 3-4) This is a picture of the preaching of the gospel going throughout all the earth. In Romans 10, the Apostle Paul quotes our text, applying it to Christ’s gospel going into all the world by his preachers, “But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.” (Rom 10: 18)

Brethren, Christ, his preachers and all his witnesses—like the sun, stars and moon—declare in all the earth God’s glory in the work of redemption. So when you admire the stars and moon reflecting the light of the sun before all the earth, think of Christ and his church declaring the Light of Christ in all the earth through preaching. Both God’s creation and Christ’s gospel leave sinners without excuse for not seeking Christ while he may be found. “There is nothing hid from the heat thereof.” (Ps 19: 6) Just as men cannot hide from the heat of the sun in the sky, none can hide from the word of the Lord. Do we have examples?

Shortly, after the Sun of Righteousness arose, when the day of Pentecost was fully, truly come, as Peter preached, declaring, “that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ” it was the Sun of Righteousness shining forth through Peter, through the word he preached. Christ’s heat and healing beams healed three thousand chosen, redeemed sinners that day by regenerating them and bringing them to faith in Christ through that word! (Acts 2: 36-41) Then a little while later, the Sun of righteousness went on his circuit a little further and shined forth in the gospel, adding another large host to the church. Christ continued on his circuit as he scattered his disciples into all the earth, “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.” (Acts 8: 4) That word they preached were like the rays of the sun shining forth everywhere they preached. Christ continued on his circuit, arresting Paul on the road to Damascus by shining a light “above the brightness of the sun.” (Acts 26: 13) The Sun of Righteousness continued on his circuit like a strong man rejoicing to run a race as he sent forth the apostle Paul to the Gentile nations because God said of Christ, “It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.” (Is 49: 6) So it is until this day. The Sun of righteousness continues on his circuit shining his light through the gospel we preach. There are some of his redeemed yet in the darkness of sin and death. But each shall feel the heat of Christ and shall be healed.

Not only that, the heat of his wrath shall be felt by all who oppose him. The same Sun that heals some, burns others. But all feel the heat for better or worse. Whether a savor of death unto death or a savor of life unto life, there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. (2 Cor 2: 16) He rules in providence over all people, whether they believe him or not

Oh, how that ought to encourage us! Be not afraid to face the vilest or the most self-righteous. Speak the gospel, calmly, plainly to all. All will be made to feel the heat in power, either by being made willing in the day of his power or they will feel the heat of condemnation. (Ps 110: 3) Our part is to merely speak the truth and leave the results to him.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Lastly, here are a few things to help us day-to-day.

First, Christ instructed all who believe, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Mt 5: 16) The Holy Spirit used Paul to tell us exactly what that means, “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” (Php 2: 14-16) The moon and stars dwell where it is dark but they are full of light which they get from the sun. So it is with us. We dwell in a dark place. We have no light of ourselves. But by Christ shining in our hearts, he says, “Ye are the light of the world.” (Mt 5: 14) “A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Mt 5: 14) That means the world sees you. They are supposed to. Christ lit us for that purpose. A man does not light a candle and put it under a bushel, he lights it to light up the room. (Mt 5: 15) So remember the world is watching. Do nothing except what adorns Christ and our gospel.

Secondly, think how consistent the light of the sun is. It has never changed. It is the same today as it was when it first shined. Likewise, because we get our light from the Sun of Righteousness our doctrine never changes. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Heb 13: 8)

Thirdly, remember all things in God’s creation revolve around the sun in the sky. Likewise, all things in God’s spiritual creation revolve around Christ. Christ is the center of all things. “Christ is all and in all.” (Col 3: 11) What would happen if the sun stopped shining? We would all die. Everything that is alive would die. Believer, in every decision—from least to greatest—in thought, word and deed—remember Christ is All. You could sooner do without the light of the sun than you can do without the healing heat of the gospel of Christ. Just as the sun is the only light, the source of all life and fruitfulness; Christ is our only Light, Life and Strength. (Jn 14: 6; 2 Cor 12: 9; Jn 15: 5; Php 4: 13) He grows the least to the greatest, like the sun grows the tender herb even the mighty redwood. All fruit is brought forth in holiness by the Lord Jesus Christ just as the sun brings forth all fruit in nature. (Php 1: 11) We never grow beyond the source of life.

Fourthly, remember, the sun is the magnet. The sun is the point from which our compasses give us direction and bearings. Likewise, Christ is the magnet that guides and controls us. When in the forest, the wise man is always looking at his compass or always looking at the sun in the sky so he knows which direction he is headed. The wise man in grace does the same. The man who does not have Christ is like a man without a compass wandering aimlessly, lost in the forest. Believer, always be looking to Christ the Sun of Righteousness so you know you are headed in the right direction.

Lastly, remember, when the sun rises, at the end of the day, it always returns to the earth. Christ has now arisen, but when the day of grace is over, he shall return. This is what shall take place, “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” (Mt 13: 40-43) The self-righteous religious folks walking around boasting of themselves, bragging on how “I let my little light shine” will be in for a rude awakening in the day of judgment. But those broken and contrite, those who make themselves invisible in this earth that all eyes and ears might be on Christ and his glory in the gospel shall be held up as the trophies of God’s grace and “then shall the righteous shine forth as the Sun in the kingdom of their Father.” Moses came down from the mount from being with Christ and his face shined so brightly he had to put on a vail so the people could behold him. So shall we when we see the Sun of Righteousness as he is, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (1 Jn 3: 2) In the new heavens and new earth, where all shall be the creation of Christ, and righteous by Christ, there will only be one Light, “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” (Rev 21: 23)

So we see that everything in this creation was made to glorify Christ in his work of making the new creation in his righteousness. He is the Light and Life we must have. Seek him today and live with him forevermore!

Amen!