

humanity to sin, and before sin distorted and damaged our world. Read what Paul states in Romans 1:19-20.

God is revealed all around us in our world, so much so that we have NO excuse if we don't believe He exists. Scripture tells us that He not only exists, but it is His desire to commune with His creation, so He speaks... He reveals Himself in many ways.

General revelation includes the common grace that is extended to all people on earth... this is a grace that comes from God that is extended to all humanity... a grace that allows us to exist, strive and flourish and prosper. God has given us all a conscience to guide our decisions of right and wrong... and in the beginning that conscience was submissive and obedient to God, but it rebelled and sought its own desires. We all have a conscience, it is a general revelation of God's presence in our lives, but because we are fallen creatures, living in a fallen and a broken world, our conscience is overwhelmed by the volume of our own desires and the cares of this world.

God speaks to His creation in many ways through what we would consider a general revelation of His will and way... but what we need to understand is that the general revelation of God is what leads us to a more intense and far more specific revelation of Himself.

One specific way is God revealing Himself thru the Spirit as Jesus promised in John 16:8, 13. The specific influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit will open eyes and hearts. The Holy Spirit was the guiding and directing force for the authors of Scripture, working through their own personalities and writing style.

Scripture details the nature of God and reveals to His creation His attributes, desires and plan for humanity. Scripture reveals the specific intention of God's desire in salvation. Scripture reveals the specific destination of those who accept God's plan and of those who reject God's plan. Scripture is a detailed account of God's revelation to humanity and so we can see that God speaks SPECIFICALLY through the Bible! But we can also see God speaks directly to us in many other ways as well...

2. Can we comprehend what God says? Verse 12

Paul is sharing with the church that if it was not for God and His specific revelation of Himself to us, we could NEVER understand Him or comprehend Him. We have received this revelation through the Spirit of God and not from anything the world brings to us... what does this mean? Well, it means that you can have the most advanced degree that humanity has to offer... you can be the most intelligent man on the planet, but that has NOTHING to do with knowing and understanding God and God's plan. That comes directly from God in His revelation of Himself.

This is because seeing the revelation of God and believing the revelation of God are two separate things. There are many things I can see or hear about, that I may have doubts about... I have heard that there are people who make 10 million dollars a year for what they do... sports personalities, actors, CEOs... you name it. But it is hard for me to fathom that sort of salary. It is hard to believe that THAT much money actually exists in the world. I know it is true in my heart, but bringing it to belief in my head is difficult.

The same goes with Spiritual things... God has revealed Himself in many ways to His creation. One way is thru His Son, Jesus Christ who died on the Cross of Calvary some 2000 years ago for the sin of the world. Scripture tells us that Jesus did this, history agrees with that account. We know that Jesus lived. We know that Jesus died. We know of the many accounts of witnesses who saw Him after He rose from the dead.

Many people see the 1st two facts, but the final fact of His resurrection, they just can't seem to grasp... bringing it into belief in our hearts is difficult. But Paul is saying here, that you can reason and think logically all you want ... but that will do you NO good.

The only way you are going to hear and accept God's full and complete revelation is through a spiritual encounter... it is the revelation of God through the Spirit. We cannot know God in His fullness on our own, it takes God to reveal Himself to us. This is why Paul teaches what he does in Ephesians 2:8-9.

We can know the revelation of God and experience God in our lives, but we can only know and experience this because God has blessed us with the gift of revelation... the gift of salvation... the gift of understanding Him and seeing Him as we should. Outside of God's revelation to us, we are spiritually blind and grasping in the dark.

You see what Paul is saying here in this passage is that God does speak to us, and even though God is God and so far above us, He speaks to us in a way we can hear, but also in a way we can understand what He is saying. God is speaking today, do YOU hear Him? Has He spoken to your heart this morning?

3. What does God's Revelation mean? Verse 13

God's revelation carries with it great and wonderful implications for all of humanity. When God reveals Himself out of His love and mercy to His creation, He imparts wisdom to us that we could never attain on our own. Without God's revelation, we would never be able to know salvation. We would never be able to experience forgiveness. We would never experience the peace of God in our hearts.

With the revelation of God we are imparted heavenly wisdom to impart crucial and critical spiritual truths that lead us to where God desires us to go. However, without this revelation, we could NEVER know God, we could NEVER understand Him and we could NEVER fathom the spiritual ramifications of our actions. Without God's revelation we are left to live as we see fit in our own eyes... we are left to live by our own selfish desires... we are left to live based on the fallen and carnal nature of our fleshly spirit.

But with God's revelation of Himself through Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to know God. We have the opportunity to experience God and His love, mercy and grace.

But not all of us who are exposed to the revelation of God choose to accept it. There are many today in the world seeing the revelation of God... from the general to the specific and they reject it. They see God's revelation and insist on placing a human and carnal explanation onto all things professed by God's revelation. They are adamantly opposed to accepting God's revelation at face value and constantly attempt to explain it away with human reasoning or supposed human intelligence.

One example I see of this is the Creation story in and of itself. I firmly have faith in and fully believe the Creation account as presented in Genesis 1 and 2. I see NO conflict and have no problems accepting the creative nature of the God of the universe and the fact that He can speak things into existence and that He can do it in a time frame that boggles the mind. I am not the only one who believes this. This is the stance of ALL of evangelical Christianity. Creation Ex Nihilo is creation from nothing. This is what Scripture says, and this is what I believe.

Now I am NOT a scientist, I have not studied intensely in the disciplines that bring one to become a scientist. But what I do have is a working knowledge of God, and a faith and belief in what He has revealed to me through His general revelation of Creation to the specific Word He has given us in Scripture and in His Son Jesus Christ.

There are those who sit in church pews who will tell you to your face that they believe in Jesus, but they also believe in evolution and that the creation account simply is not scientifically possible and so they cannot believe it. What this tells me is that it is NOT the revelation of Scripture that is in question, but our understanding of that revelation. Just because we cannot 'explain' something does not mean it did not happen or does not exist.

The conception of life is something that happens on a daily basis in our world but to this day, although Science KNOWS the basic mechanics of how happens... they cannot fully explain WHY it happens or HOW it occurs.

For the poor man, one million dollars seems UNBELIEVABLE and beyond comprehension. He knows it is there, he can see it, but he cannot fathom how it can be real to anyone.

For the Scientist, this creation is here, he can see it, smell it, taste and experience it, but He cannot explain it, as hard as he tries to explain it away and take the Creator OUT of the picture... he cannot do it.

God reveals Himself and because He has revealed Himself we can know things about God and His creation that we could NEVER know on our own.

Conclusion

What does this mean for us today? God's revelation focuses on one central theme and character. Jesus Christ is that one central character and the redemption of humanity is the theme.

The question this morning is, "Does God speak?" and the answer is a resounding YES HE DOES! He has spoken in many ways to reveal Himself to you... to let you know He loves you and it is His desire for you to be part of His eternal family. God DOES speak, and this morning He has spoken to you through the songs that we have sung, thru the Scripture we have read and thru the message I have spoken...

God can speak to us through His word, thru the circumstances of life and through other people. The question is NOT "Does God Speak?" the real question today is "Are you listening?" God is speaking to your heart today. Are you going to listen to Him? He could be speaking to you from a ministry standpoint and guiding you down a pathway of ministry.

He could be speaking to you from a fellowship standpoint and guiding you to join our church and fellowship, worship and serve with Calvary Baptist Church.

He could be speaking to you today from a standpoint of obedience, He is calling you to do something and you have yet surrendered to Him...

He could be speaking to you this morning from a perspective of Savior. You have sin in your life. He is calling you to confess your sin and accept His forgiveness and salvation.

The question for you today is ARE YOU LISTENING? As Bro. Don comes to lead us in our hymn of invitation, are you going to listen to God and step out this morning, or are you going to continue to ignore His calling? Won't you come as we begin to sing?

Are We Listening?

Choose Words Wisely

The following italicized paragraphs are excerpted from **10 Minutes in the Word: Proverbs**, copyright Zondervan.

Read Proverbs 16:16-33. You don't have to be a child or around children much to know they can say cruel things to each other. Very few of us escape our school years without getting our feelings hurt over something another child said to us. Often as children, we were taught to respond to a verbal barb by saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Of course, that old saying is not true. Words wound us deeply. There's a good chance you remember a time from years ago (or maybe even more recently) when someone spoke unkind words to you. Harsh words from a parent, teacher, or friend can linger for decades. That's why wise people choose their words carefully.

Solomon wrote that wise people are prudent with their words (Proverbs 16:23), which means they show good judgment in their speech. As a result, their words help rather than hurt, and listening to individuals such as these motivates us to learn and embrace what is said. Foolish people give no thought to what they say, and their words cause damage. On the other hand, Solomon wrote, "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24).

It's astounding to realize that our words have the potential to bring healing. In the ancient world, honey was the sweetest substance available, and Solomon was intentional with his imagery. Not only are kind words sweet to the soul, but they have the potential to have a healing effect on the body. Most of us expect anything medicinal to be bitter in taste and sweets to be harmful, but kind words are both sweet and health-giving. The apostle Paul offered instruction to the church at Ephesus on how a Christ-follower is supposed to speak: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29).

It's easy for us to forget the impact our words have on other people. We have the potential to speak words that help or hurt, maim or heal. We need wisdom to choose our words wisely.

Now it's our turn. Have you ever been on the receiving end of unkind words? How do those experiences influence your speech? Whom do you know that could benefit from a kind word from you today? How can you use your words to bring healing to someone who is hurting? Wise people choose their words carefully. We've all had words flung at us that stung and stuck. As believers with the Holy Spirit inside of us, we have His wisdom as well and can use words to heal instead of hurt. When you pray, thank God for the privilege we have to communicate with each other. Invite Him to quickly convict you when you are out of line in your speech. Ask Him to help you to speak words that are a benefit to those who hear and to routinely speak words of kindness in order that your words will never harm.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Business Meeting and Dinner at Noon

No Evening Service.....

Wednesday, September 19

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: ? ? ? ? , Gary Yarbrough, John Lewis, Joseph Coats
Alternate: Larry McKahan
Diversicare.....2:30 pm
SJBA Annual Meeting 4:00 pm
No Evening Service.....

Wednesday, September 26

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

September 16-23 Week of Prayer for Missouri Missions

September 23 — SJBA Annual Meeting 4:00 pm

— Diversicare 2:30 pm

September 26 — See You At the Pole

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We **will not** have Sunday night services tonight or next week. Please join us as we resume on September 30 to study God's Word. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church. Hope to see you this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner

We will have our regular business meeting and carry in meal immediately following the morning worship service today, September 16.

Diversicare Nursing Home
September 23, 2018
at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Reuben L. South Week of Prayer for
Missouri Missions
September 16-23

"Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand." Chronicles 29:148

Saint Joseph Baptist Association Annual Meeting

September 23, 2018
4:00 pm
Journey Baptist Church

This annual meeting will have a shortened business meeting with video reports. The emphasis for the evening will be on all our churches worshiping and praising God together. Journey is providing a meal following the Worship Gathering. All church elected messengers should attend but everyone is welcome to join us as we worship God together.

For the Record-

Attendance: September 9, 2018

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|--------------------------|-----|
| Sunday School..... | 25 |
| Visitors..... | 2 |
| Total..... | 27 |
| Contacts Made..... | 11 |
| Morning Worship..... | 40 |
| Sunday Night..... | N/A |
| Children's Worship | N/A |
| Wednesday Night | 9 |

Financial Record:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Budget | \$ 2,286.39 |
| Offering Received ... | \$ 728.00 |
| Long Family –August... | \$ 105.00 |
| MMO | \$ 495.00 |

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

George Burgess
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

September Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
20...Tim Waters
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey Mayse

September Anniversaries

Al and Karen Shirley
September 26, 2009

Prayer Requests ...

Mike Green—recovery
Brendan Conner—Swymeler's Grandson
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia
Kenny Kirkpatrick
Mary Sharp—back surgery recovery
Linda Huff—surgery recovery
Jim Winans—surgery recovery
June Fritchle—recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Randy and Gina Harr—new pastorate
Tammy Panning, Emily Jones & Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack

Shawna Hughes—recovery
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
The Waters Family Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
