

When was the last time You looked UP?

Psalm 19: 1-6

The heavens declare the glory of GOD; the skies proclaim the works of His hands. Day after day they pour speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech; they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

I ask the question 'When was the last time You looked UP? Only because I am not quite sure when I took the time to really look up and notice the wonders of Heaven. For a start, can you name all the cloud formations? No problem if you cannot, here are a list of the 5 most common clouds that we can see every day.

Stratus = flat/layered and smooth. **Cumulus** = heaped up/puffy, like cauliflower. **Cirrus** = high up/wispy. **Alto** = medium level.

Nimbus = rain-bearing cloud. Also, at night can you spot Venus? Well if you know where to find Orion's Belt, the brightest star shining is Venus as Orion's Belt points to it. If any of you are awake around dawn, then Venus is still visible, in that early morning stillness as the sun starts to warm and wake the earth.

If that sounds a bit on the poetic side, then forgive me. I've always fancied writing poetry but never really got into it on a big scale. King David on the other hand, who this Psalm is attributed to, is an exceptionally fine poet.

This Psalm starts with 'The Heavens Declare'. David starts this Psalm pointing to the work of God's hand, a proclamation of praise by the products of God's creative power.

‘The Heavens Declare the Glory of God. Is David making a reference to the Old Testament? Gen 1:1 **‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth’.** Maybe, but I think that this out pouring of declaration by creation is ongoing. The heavens are crying out the nature of God from the time of creation to now, with us in lockdown. The Heavens are still declaring the Glory of God.

Today is Father’s Day June 21st. I remember my Dad with much love. He was a gentle man in his nature, a man of integrity. A person that would stand up for what he believed in, a person that once you met him, you would take an instant like to, he was my best friend. Just for the record, he gave great hugs too! Some of us may have a similar memory about our Dads.... some of us may not be thinking how great their Dads were.... And maybe some of us just do not want to remember, or even know who their Dads were.

Read this Psalm... or even before you read this Psalm go outside and LOOK UP! Take a long look at what our Heavenly Father has created.... YES, for His glory, but also for our benefit, so we are reminded of what God has done and is doing. That we can see the glory of God displayed before us from the time we wake up to the time we go to sleep.

This Father’s Day, no matter how you feel about your own Dad, remember we have a Father in Heaven who sent His one and only Son to the cross to die for our sin to give us a way back to Him. And if you are still not sure, take a look up, long enough to see the Heavens declare the glory of God.

Can I encourage you to read the whole of Psalm 19 and ponder on it as one of God’s first acts of creation, declares who He is. He is the creator of everything we see, let us give thanks and praise to our creator God.

Bless you all, stay safe.

Blessings

Mike