

Scripture: God's Law (Ex. 20) and Ps. 19 Text: Ps. 19:7-14
Singing: 1:1-3 – 428:3 – 384:1-5 – 143:1-2 – 117:1-4

God's directions how to remove what hinders communion with Him

Intro: Solomon's received a cool welcome (Song 2:14-15)

A. Such trouble is never Jesus' fault: *He desires communion*

1. John 4:23b (Ex. 25:21-22; Lev. 26:11-12; John 14:23)

2. Definition of Means of Grace

B. Common reason hindering communion with God: Ps. 66:18; Eph 4:30

I. God's first direction is *let the Word read you* (7-10)

A. The law is all Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16) intended to bless you

B. Be prepared: *Scripture is painfully sharp and honest* (Heb. 4:12-13)

II. God's second direction is to *read and meditate with prayer* (12-13)

A. First prayer is vs. 12: *keep me from deceiving myself!* (Jer. 17:9-10)

B. Second prayer is still vs. 12: *Cleanse me from sins I don't see*

C. Third prayer flows from realizing truth of vs. 12: *Keep back ... (vs. 14)*

III. God's final direction is *look to Christ Jesus* (vs. 14)

A. Even the slightest insight into your heart is enough to sink all hope!

B. He directs you to turn to Him in repentance and faith (vs. 14)

Questions and reflections for personal and family use

1. Discuss the meaning and implications of the means of grace as 'God's channel to communicate His covenant blessings to His people.'
2. Discuss the revelation of God the Father as a 'seeking Father', seeking such that will worship Him with trust, praise, joy, and obedience? (John 4:23b) How is that to guide us when we seek Him?
3. Before God's speaking from Mt Sinai, Moses was instructed to tell the people to 'sanctify themselves' (Ex. 19:10-15). What applications does this passage have for our week of preparation on an individual, marriage, family, and congregational level?
4. How do you avoid the error of making your searching and preparation a 'work which makes you worthy to receive a reward?'
5. God spoke of 'in the keeping of God's commandments is a great reward.' Does that include the commandment to sanctify yourself?
6. What is the great reward God encourages us with in following up His directions of His holy will?
7. How would you counsel those among us who are not certain whether they are worthy to make use of the means of the Lord's Supper for the strengthening of their faith, even though they cannot deny that sin is bitter, shame over sin is real, and Jesus has become their only hope for acceptance with God?