



APPNOTES

Date: June 25–29, 2018

Series: This I Believe

Psalm 19:1-6 Often, when my daughter and I are driving, she'll look at the setting sun and say, 'sky appreciation.' She loves to marvel at the varying shades and depths of color that we can see painted across the sky. Our scripture today, tells us that all that beauty is a letter penned by God to all of us telling us of his majesty, glory, and presence. Even though the clouds don't speak, nor do the stars have a voice, they shout the presence of a miraculous God. It's tempting in our current world to doubt an almighty God. Wars, chaos, violence, despair. But when those thoughts crowd about, look up and use your eyes to hear all that he has to say.

Romans 1:18-20 This is a difficult couple of verses. It opens by talking about the wrath of God and ends with saying that no one has an excuse for unbelief. But if we slow down in the middle we see a lot of gentleness. God says he's placed the evidence (a desire) of himself in each of us. And not only that, he created the entire world to teach us of himself. He wants to connect and be Father to everyone everywhere. So he made sure to communicate it in a way that no one could miss—unless they chose to. One day everyone will stand before God, and no one has the ability to say, "well I didn't know you existed" because he taught all of mankind through the handicraft of the natural world. Kind of makes you want to step outside and see what else he has to say.

Romans 2:14-15 Paul is the author of Romans, and here he is laying out the basic building blocks of faith. Maybe the Romans asked him, "How do we really know this God exists?" This was part of his answer: People are unique in that we have a conscience, an innate knowledge of what is right and wrong. No, we're not born knowing traffic laws, but have you ever seen anyone teach a child to lie? And then feel guilty about it? It's intrinsic and it's a gift from God. He didn't want us to live instinctually like animals do. He created us more like him, to commune with him, and without that conscience we couldn't do that. That inner voice is your compass to your God. It's yet another piece of evidence that we have a Great God who wants to be a part of our lives.

Psalm 33:8-9 If you live anywhere in NEPA, you have no doubt heard about the tornado that struck Wilkes-Barre Township. I read an account that said one shop clerk watched tables being whipped through windows. From interstate 81 you could almost track it's path. Amazingly, the

little pop-up tent selling flowers wasn't touched! All that power and remarkable control, and that was a fairly small tornado. Can you even conceive of the awe inspiring power the creator of that tornado must have? If that tornado is a picture of what God can do, and the flower tent being a picture of God's available mercy, doesn't that compel you toward him for worship and gratitude? You can stand by the One who speaks and rest by the One who commands.

Psalm 139:13-14 Have you ever done that DNA testing you see advertised everywhere? You send in your sample and they can trace where your ancestors came from. They can also tell how likely you'll have blue eyes, or red hair. How much information they can draw out of a little saliva! The body is so incredibly intricate and complicated that even after all this time, science is still learning more about us. These verses explain why that is; we have a great God who knit together every part of us to create something unique and for a specific purpose. Something completely unlike anything else found in nature. So we can see why David, the author of this Psalm, wrote here that he will rejoice and thank God because he was truly and wonderfully made!

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