

Monday **The Universal Language**

Often we think of English as the universal language, and in a business sense that is true. Some say love is the universal language. That's true because everyone knows what a smile is. However, there is another language that everyone in the world can understand. It is the language with which the universe speaks. What is it saying?

1. Read Psalm 19 – What do the heavens declare?
2. Describe the glory of God as it is shown in the heavens.
3. What does the firmament show?
4. What is His handywork?
5. According to verse 2, what utters speech?
6. What shows knowledge?
7. According to verse 3, is there any place on earth where that voice cannot be heard?
8. According to verse 4, how far do their words reach?
9. What specific celestial body is mentioned in verse 4?
10. Where on earth can the sun's effects be felt?
11. Where on earth can God's effects be seen?

The heavens declare the glory of God. In the next few days, we will see some specific examples of that. If God made a language that can be understood all around the world, He must be concerned that His glory is spread. Do your part to spread it today!

Tuesday **The Universal Language**

The heavens declare the glory of God. All around the world, His creation tells about God, Who He is, and what He is like. Over the next few days, we will learn some things that God's creation teaches about Him.

1. Read Psalm 19 – This Psalm starts with the statement “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” The rest of the Psalm expounds on that statement and explains it. David used the sun as an illustration. What did he say about the sun in verses 4-6?
2. What can we learn about God from the fact that the sun's effects are felt all over the world?
3. One aspect of God's universal influence is His Word. What are some of the things that are said about God's Word in verses 7-9?
4. According to verse 10, how valuable is God's Word?
5. According to verse 11, what is the benefit of God's Word and obedience to it?
6. What area of God's influence can you see in verses 12-13?
7. God has the power to forgive sins. David takes his request one step further. What does he ask from God in verse 14?
8. Yes, God is able to forgive sin, but He is also able to help you avoid it in the first place. What sin is particularly difficult for you to avoid?

God's influence is universal. This includes His Word, His ability to forgive sin, and His ability to help you defeat temptation. Let the sun teach you about God's world-wide influence.

Wednesday The Universal Language

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” God has revealed Himself in nature. God’s creation teaches us about Him. It teaches so well that every person can understand the lessons if they want to.

1. We can learn from the size of the universe that God is limitless. Here are a few facts about the size of the universe.
 - ✓ 1 light year = the distance light can travel in one year
 - ✓ 1 light year = 6 trillion miles
 - ✓ The Milky Way is 100,000 light years in diameter.
 - ✓ The closest galaxy to the Milky Way is 160,000 light years from Earth.
 - ✓ Andromeda is 2.25 million light years from Earth.
 - ✓ Close galaxies are said to be 500 million light years away.
 - ✓ Imagine how far distant galaxies are!
2. The size of the universe teaches us about how big God is. Read I Kings 8:27 – How big is God compared to the universe?
3. If God is that big, where can God be at any one time?
4. Read Jeremiah 32:17 – If God is so big, is there anything too difficult for Him?
5. Read Romans 11:33 – If God is so big, what can we learn about His wisdom?
6. The universe is said to be so big that it has no beginning or no end. Read Psalm 139:7-10 – If the universe is so big, and it still can’t contain God, where can we go to get away from God?

The universe is huge. God is bigger. He spoke the universe into existence. He is big enough to take care of you protect you, yet He is personal enough to live inside you!

Thursday The Universal Language

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” They always will. God is limitless. There will always be more to learn about Him. Besides the fact that He is limitless, what else does the universe teach us about God?

1. We can learn from the precision of the universe that God is concerned with details. Notice how precise the universe really is.
 - ✓ 1 day = 24 hours (really 23.9345 hours)
 - ✓ 1 year = 365 days (365.256 days)
 - ✓ A Parsec is a method of measuring distance to stars. It uses angles to measure the distances. The universe is so precise that distances of 1/3600 of a degree can be observed.
2. God is concerned with details. What details? He is concerned with every detail of your life. Read Psalm 139:1-4 – What details about your life does God know?
3. Read Matthew 10:28-30 – What detail does God know?
4. Since God knows that detail, how much does He value you?
5. Since God knows that detail, what reason is there to be afraid of other people?
6. Read Proverbs 15:3 – What does God see?
7. How is that verse an encouragement?
8. How is that verse a warning?

God knows everything about you. There is nothing you can hide from Him. He is deeply concerned about you. He wants to be part of your life. Let Him!

Friday The Universal Language

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” They speak a language that everyone around the world can clearly understand. They tell us that He is limitless and personal. What else do they teach us?

1. We can learn from the precision of the universe that God is faithful. Here are a few examples of its precision.
 - ✓ Halley’s Comet was first discovered in 1682. Edmond Halley predicted that it would appear every 76 years. It has every 76 years since then.
 - ✓ Eclipses are very predictable. The next solar eclipse will occur on Friday, August 1, 2008, starting in northern Canada at 9:21:07 Universal Time and ending in China at 11:21:28. It will be a total eclipse, peaking at 10:21:08.
2. God is faithful. He is reliable. What He says, He will do. Read Deuteronomy 7:9 – What does God do that shows He is faithful?
3. Read I Corinthians 10:13 – Since God is faithful, what does He do for His people in this verse?
4. Read I Thessalonians 5:24 – Since God is faithful, if He calls you to do a task, what will He also do?
5. Read I Corinthians 4:2 – Since God is faithful, what can He and does He expect from His people?
6. To what task has God called you that requires your faithfulness?

God is faithful. He is trustworthy. He does what He says He will do. God wants the same from you. If you make a commitment, you ought to keep it. Be reliable!

Saturday The Universal Language

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” Everyday the universe speaks in a language that everyone can understand. It is speaking about God and Who He is. We have a great God! There is much to say!

1. We learn from the unpredictability of the weather that we can’t know who will and will not be saved. The wind is almost always changing direction or speed. It seems that it goes wherever it pleases. Of course, God has complete control over it, but no one knows from moment to moment which direction the wind will be blowing or how quickly. Read John 3:1-8 – Who is talking to Jesus?
2. What is his occupation?
3. The Pharisees didn’t get along with Jesus, but Nicodemus wanted to get some information from Him. Jesus immediately changed the subject to salvation. According to verse 3, how does a person get saved?
4. According to verse 5, from what two things does a person need to be born?
5. What illustration does Jesus use in verse 8?
6. The wind is often used to teach about the work of the Holy Spirit. What does verse 8 teach us about the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation?
7. If we don’t know who will be saved, what is our responsibility to unsaved people?

We don’t now who will be saved. We have a responsibility to tell as many people as possible about Jesus Christ and the salvation that is available only through Him.

Sunday

The Universal Language

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” God gave them to us so that we could learn about Him. In learning of Him, we learn about ourselves. The heavens can teach us about ourselves as well.

1. Read Psalm 8 – God’s name is excellent where?
2. How high has God set His glory?
3. According to verse 3 what things should we consider?
4. According to verse 4, what two questions will you ask when you do consider the things that God has made?
5. The next few verses answer the questions from verse 4. What is our rank in comparison to the angels?
6. According to verses 6-8, what is our position in comparison to the rest of creation?
7. Having dominion over something is to exercise control or influence. Besides animals over what else can you exercise control or influence?
8. In comparison to what God can do, how significant is what we can do?
9. A proper view of God’s work will give you a proper view of God. How will that change your view of yourself?

God’s work reveals His power and our weakness. Our power compared to God’s is nothing. That teaches us humility. Though we are weak, God still gave us a place of prominence in creation. That teaches us more humility. We don’t deserve it.