

Giving Joy to the Heart

(August 16, 2026, Glen G. Scorgie)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 19:1-14

SERMON SUMMARY

The sermon reflects on Psalm 19, the first part of which describes how “the heavens declare the glory of God.” The second part, beginning in verse 7, focuses on the law of God, which is perfect, refreshing the soul, and “giving joy to the heart” (v 8). Like the physical sun, the revealed moral law of God also shines light on our journey in ways that generate life and vitality.

As Christian believers, we must always find our acceptance and freedom from guilt and shame, not through our moral achievements, but instead by trusting in the “alien righteousness” of Jesus Christ. This is the message of Galatians and the secret of a heart set free.

At the same time, God has revealed to us the moral pathway to living well and blessing others. This “the law of the Lord,” and it is meant to bring us joy and therefore to be embraced with gratitude. Following this divinely-revealed roadmap to life is not a strategy for earning the Father’s acceptance. Instead, it is our Father’s gift of guidance on how to live well and to minimize regrets. Understood in this light, the way God commends is not a duty to be shouldered but a way of living that gives joy to our hearts.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. Read slowly through Psalm 19, the biblical text for this past week’s sermon. What stands out most to you as you reflect on it?
2. What was your main personal takeaway from the message this past Sunday?
3. Why is the law of God still important for Christians?
4. Explain the difference between moral relativism and true Christianity.
5. What can we learn by thinking of the law of God as a kind of second sun shining down from the heavens above us?
6. What is there about the law of God that should bring joy to our hearts? What is there about it, if anything, that you personally find beautiful or delightful?
7. Discuss the meaning and significance of the statement “We are what we love.”
8. How should we reconcile or harmonize the message of Galatians with the message of Psalm 19?