

*Seven / Eleven (Psalm 19:7-11)*  
by Pastor Ken Faust



### Day One

Psalm 19:7-11 - **(7)** *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul: The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. (8) The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. (9) The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. (10) They are more precious than gold; they are sweeter than honey... (11) By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. (NIV)*

The California Gold Rush began in the late 1840's when 300,000 people came from around the world seeking to become rich. The gold seekers were called 'forty-niners', the nickname of today's San Francisco's football team. A few became very wealthy but many returned home with very little riches and much disappointment.

**Psalm 19:7-11** tells us that God's Word is more precious than gold, even pure gold, and sweeter than honey that comes from a honey comb. David is describing a '**spiritual treasure**' that is much greater and more grandeur than the riches of this world. That is because God reveals Himself, His will and His promises to us through His Word, the Bible.

The Bible also reveals something else very precious, the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ. This good news includes two **gold nuggets** that are worth more than any other treasure found on earth. **(1)** The promise of our salvation and **(2)** it's fulfillment by the life, death and resurrection of Christ Himself, our Lord and Savior. These nuggets not only contain our destiny on earth but also an eternal destiny with God if we choose to believe.

Ironically, most men neglect mining this '**spiritual treasure**' that promises a great reward to those who keep them (God's Word). Instead they choose to go through life spiritually bankrupt. Unfortunately, many of these men can be found sitting in our churches.

So, let's go **mining** and dig up some nuggets of gold from **Psalm 19** in verses **7-11** and perhaps begin another **gold rush** in our lives, our families, our church and even in our communities. Happy prospecting!

**Golden nugget** to meditate on: *Psalm 119:162 I rejoice in Your word as one who finds great treasure. (NKJV)*

**Question:** What has God been speaking to you lately from His Word?

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## Day Two

### *Psalm 19:7 - The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. (NIV)*

As we begin day two of prospecting treasures from **Psalm 19:7-11**, we find our first gold nugget in **verse 7**, that declares God's law (the teachings of God) is perfect, reviving (restoring) our souls. God's Word, the Bible, does not need anything added to it or subtracted from it. It is complete and whole. It is not a history book, although it contains history, and it is not a collection of good stories, although it contains many good stories. The Bible is God revealing Himself to mankind and His will for His creation. Especially those who decide to follow Him.

God's teachings also reveal man's shortcomings through sin. Our sin is what separates us from Him. **Romans 3:23** says, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" If we remain in sin and allow it to rule over us, we also remain spiritually dead and separated from God. A man in this state is a miserable creature who lives what the Bible describes as a worthless life. How many well intentioned gold seekers during the California gold rush left family and friends behind seeking fame and fortune but ended up miserable and disappointed? Probably most of them.

However, those who seek God need not be disappointed. **Verse 7** also declares that God's Word revives (restores) the soul. In God's Word, we find that through Christ all mankind can be restored and return to the place where sin had cast him out. To revive something is to bring it back to life. Sometimes reading or studying the Bible may seem tedious, but a disciplined life will find great treasure in God's Word and live a productive life.

Today's nugget to ponder: *Psalm 119:11 Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.*

**Question:** What was the last Scripture you memorized?

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**Day Three**

*Psalm 19:7 - The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*  
(NIV)

During the gold rush, a miner needed supplies he could trust. One thing needed was a good canvas tent to live in along the river banks. The supplier was Levi Strauss from San Francisco. Strauss would later hire seamstresses to sew patches on the pants of the miners who wore out the knees. The rest is history.

**Psalm 19:7** tells us that God's statutes (ordinances or laws) are also trustworthy; something we can put our confidence in. In **Psalm 119:86**, the psalmist declares that *all of God's commands* are trustworthy. This means that God's Word, the Bible, and the instructions to live a purposeful life are much more dependable to our lives than one of the canvas tents made by Levi Strauss for gold-panning miners.

**Psalm 19:7** concludes that God's Word makes simple people wise. True wisdom goes beyond accumulating a bunch of knowledge, but applies the knowledge we've gained and puts it into practice. Jesus would emphasize this at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. He gave an illustration of two men, one wise and one foolish. Both heard His words but only one put them into practice. When the storms of life came only one survived.

There are several ways to hear and apply God's Word to our lives. We need to develop a devotional life, attend Sunday School, church services and listen when God's Word is spoken. This puts us in position to receive God's Word and perhaps find the golden nugget that will help us overcome something giving us problems.

The next time you put on a pair of jeans remember how trustworthy God's Word is.

Today's nugget to ponder: *Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**Question:** What Book of the Bible did your pastor speak from last Sunday?

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**Day Four**

*Psalm 19:8 - The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. (NIV)*

During the California Gold Rush only a handful became rich. Many of the others were lucky if they made enough to eat. Most miners came by themselves and were soon homesick and lonely. Thousands of these gold diggers would die on the journey from sickness and disease. Others died from mining accidents or drowning in a river. Doesn't sound like much fun.

**Psalm 19:8** tells us that God's precepts (a principle intended as a general rule of conduct) are right. The word "**right**" used by David does not mean correct as opposed to being wrong, It means **straight** as opposed to being crooked. God's Word will always help us stay on the straight path in life instead of a crooked one. **Psalm 23:3** declares that God Himself will guide us in *paths of righteousness* for His name's sake. He does this through His Word, the Bible, and the precepts He gives us.

When we choose our own ways and get off God's path for our lives, we cannot blame God for the mess we find ourselves in. Sin will always rob us of our joy that the Lord intends us to have. As many miners found themselves sick and lonely seeking to become rich, many men in our churches have lost their joy when they've strayed off God's path. And it will not take long for them to drop out of church.

**Psalm 16:11** says that God will make known to us *the path of life* and He will *fill us with joy* as we stay in His presence. The quickest way to get into the presence of the Lord is reading the Bible. This is where the golden nugget of God's joy will be found. Keep digging!

Today's nugget to ponder: *Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...*

**Question:** Do you consistently feel God's joy in your life?

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**Day Five**

*Psalm 19:8 The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*  
(NIV)

Mining for gold was not always sunshine. In fact, the miners had to put up with heavy rains and cold winter snowstorms. Sickness and colds were common from sleeping on the damp cold ground. Sanitation was poor and the miners seldom bathed or washed their clothes.

**Psalm 19:8** tells us that the commands of the LORD are radiant. The dictionary says that the word '**radiant**' means shining brightly, glowing, and even beaming with happiness. This is quite a contrast with what the miners were putting up with. Although, just because you're a follower of Christ, it doesn't mean everything is going to go smooth all the time.

However, it's amazing how God's Word gives us spiritual insight. It instructs us and informs us in so many ways, especially when things are not always going right. The Apostle Paul often found himself in circumstances he didn't want to be in, but he would later write that *he could do all things through Christ* who gave him strength. (**Philippians 4:13**) He found this strength in God's Word and in daily fellowship with Him.

When we find ourselves going through the storms of life, God's Word will always shine through giving us the instructions and information we need to weather the storm. Even through the most difficult times in life we can still be beaming with happiness. Why, because we have been digging our claims found in the Word of God and have learned to stand upon its promises.

Think of the joy a prospector had when his eye saw a shining nugget when panning for gold. Now allow God to show you His nuggets of gold found in His Word.

Today's nugget to ponder: *Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

**Question:** Do you feel that you are on the right path of life?

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**Day Six**

***Psalm 19:9 - The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. (NIV)***

24k gold is considered the purest gold there is. It isn't good for jewelry because it's too soft and it damages easily. The only practical use for it is for investment. Even the gold bars stored in Fort Knox, Kentucky are considered only 90% pure. This is because they are made from gold coins that have been melted down. Most of these coins contained other alloys thus tainting the gold's purity.

In the midst of explaining the object of God's Word, David now gives us the divine purpose. **Psalm 19:9** tells us that **the fear of the LORD is pure and endures forever**. God's Word is perfect, trustworthy, right, and radiant. It will revive the soul, make wise the simple, give joy to the heart, and light to the eyes. But its ultimate purpose is to give us the fear of the LORD, the **reverence** and **respect** that God deserves.

Because God is Supreme and is the object of our affection, our reverence for Him should always be pure. Perhaps a better word for pure is the word sincere. When we understand God's love, His grace, and His mercy for us we can say like the Apostle Paul, "**The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.**" (1 Timothy 1:14)

Our sincere respect for God and showing Him the reverence He deserves should always be genuine and free from hypocrisy. King David was far from perfect and made a lot of mistakes, even big ones, but he always had a sincere respect for God and showed Him reverence. David would earn the title, **a man after God's own heart**. Not a bad goal for those digging for treasure.

Today's nugget to ponder: ***John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

**Question:** Do you know and understand the doctrine of the church you are attending?



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**Day Seven**

*Psalm 19:9 - The ordinances of the LORD are sure, and altogether righteous.*  
(NIV)

The Barbary Coast was the red-light district in San Francisco that was born during the California Gold Rush in 1849. It contained dance halls, jazz clubs, saloons and brothels where lonely miners could spend what little money they had. The term was borrowed from the Barbary Coast of North Africa where pirates and slave traders launched their raids.

**Psalm 19:9** says, *“God's ordinances are sure and altogether righteous.”* This tells us that God's Word will show us and give us stability when things seem uncertain. His Word will always point us in the right direction. Imagine the direction men were taking during the Gold Rush when fame and fortune seemed to be fading away. All of their certain dreams of striking it rich were suddenly escaping them and now they indulged in drunkenness and depravity.

Now consider God's Word, the Bible. The very book we hold in our hands. Words that are more precious than pure gold. Words that are powerful enough to change our lives. Words that are sweeter than honey from a honey comb. Words that have their origin from God Himself. Words that let us know that God loves us and cares for us. Yes, even when we make a mess of things. In very simple terms, **it's a gold mine.**

It's time for each of us to stake our claim. I found a good one in the Book of Joshua. *“But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”* (Josh. 24:15)

Today's nugget to ponder: *Matthew 4:4 ...It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”*

**Question:** Are you just snacking on God's Word or do you sit down and enjoy a good meal?