

## *Lent III Psalm 19* **Cleanse us from Unclean Thoughts**

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**“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer” Psalm 19:14**

Today we continue our Lenten journey to the cross by looking at Psalm 19. Lets take a few moments to reflect on the back round of this Psalm and hear what David is saying to all of us.

Psalm 19 completes the cycle of Praise for the Lord’s saving acts reflected in the creation of His low. It is a stately rhythmic celebration of the life nurturing effects of the Lord’s revealed law as it relates and proclaims the Light of Christ.

David further shows us that the heavens are the divinely “pitched tents” for the lordly sun that was worshiped in the Near East. The sun is a supreme metaphor of God’s glory. Just as it makes its daily triumphant sweep across the whole extent of heaven and pours out its heat (felt presence) on every creature, Yahweh is more.

The fear of the Lord is the sum of what the low requires. It marks the way that leads to life. Man’s moral consciousness remains flawed and imperfect. Hence, when we err without realizing it we truly have reason to seek pardon for hidden faults. Willful sins however, are open rebellion. They are great transgressions and lead us to darkness. With this in mind, we return to our theme: Cleanse us from secret faults.

Throughout history as a whole, the history of our beloved Atlantic District, individual congregations and especially our own personal lives, we constantly seek reflection on the words, “Cleanse us from secret faults”,

How brilliant God the creator was in making such magnificent things for our pleasure and good to show His glory and might. The sun, the stars, the heavenly lights to guide, to warm, to keep us on track and to reflect His power, all of these created with a Word.

Yes, God also created His best and dearest creation, man, though created in God’s image, became sinful. God created us to give Him glory and praise and charged us to reveal His works in all that we think, do and say.

Lent is a time of solemn reflection. A time to look at where we are in our daily lives and in our struggle to walk with God. A time to constantly reflect on what is required of us. A time to confess and humble ourselves before our mighty Yahweh. A time to ask God to cleanse us from secret faults.

Human nature often sets the ground works of self-centered desires and wants. It often encourages us to look at the fast paced wants and personal desires of the world and pushes us to become puffed up with self. Who will be the most popular to lead, who will give the most monetarily, how can I be set apart for self serving reasons? How indeed!

There isn’t a District, congregation, or individual alive that hasn’t had these thought or desires. Congregational secrets, the “dirty laundry” that lies between the pages of the council minutes, often are the darkness that obscures light and progress for that parish. The Atlantic District has held its share of secrets through the century in this way, and often those secrets have thwarted the

Gospel message. That is what makes us fallen human beings who are cut off from the light of Christ. "Cleanse us from secret faults". But thanks be to God that the Law of the Lord is perfect. It revives our souls. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy. He makes wise the simple in the one true light, Jesus. The fear of the Lord is pure and endures forever and that is shown in our leaders, our congregations and in ourselves when we implore God to cleanse us from unclean faults.

It is my personal prayer for each and every one of you, that during this Lenten season you will take time each day to implore God to cleanse you from unclean faults in whatever manner they may try to invade your being. Give thanks to God for His law to guide us, and for the greatest gift of all, His Son who truly is the light of the world and life.

Jesus light of lights, blessed Savior, Redeemer, You are all in all, cleanse us from unclean faults. Amen.

*- Deacon Kathy Funfgeld*