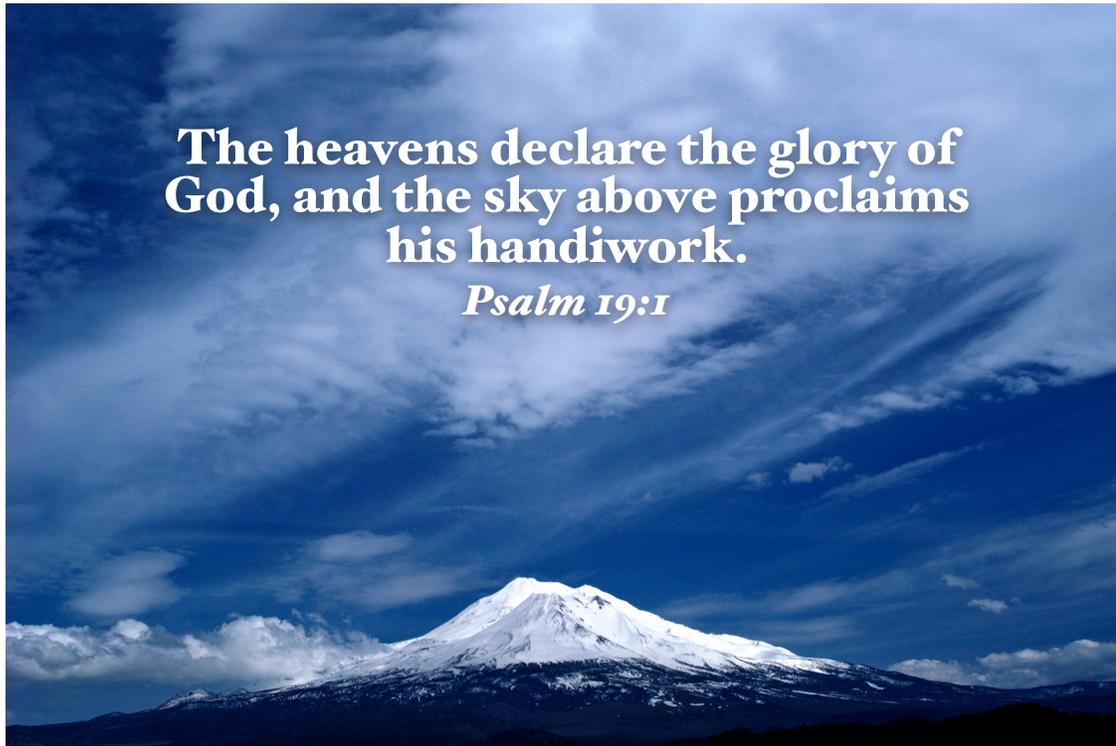


Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

March 31, 2020



Mount Shasta

God is Bigger than Our Problems

God is really big. Just look around you. Look at that snow-covered mountains and the clouds. Look at the intricacies of the human body, or look at a baby's face. So, of course, *“God is bigger than our problems.”* But what does that mean? Whenever people are facing a crisis you can count on preachers and others, with the best of intentions, to toss out a few platitudes: “just trust God!” “just have faith,” “God is in control,” “God is bigger than your problems!” But does that mean that if I put my trust in the God who is bigger than my problem that my problem will go away? It doesn't work that way, does it?

A few days ago we read about the prophet Habakkuk's concerns; he could not figure out why God was allowing certain people in his nation to do the evil they were doing. He took that concern (actually a *complain*) to God. Habakkuk was no humanist; he knew God was much bigger than him; he knew God had a better — in fact, a *perfect* — perspective. But he desperately wanted to know what God was going to do about a situation that caused him so much frustration. God's response was not very satisfying nor was it comforting. He said, among other things, *“if I told you, you wouldn't believe it... those who are righteous live by faith... I am in heaven (you're not) keep silent”* (Habakkuk 1:5; 2:4; 2:20).

I readily say “God is bigger than my problem.” But I am not saying that God is going to take my problem away or solve my problem in the way I think he should solve it. The only way the statement that “God is bigger than my problems” moves from a “pat answer” to a life-altering truth is if I understand it to mean that whatever God is or is not doing in the world, I'm perfectly OK with that. That is the only way that the Psalm that we looked at yesterday (112:6-7) can have any practical meaning for us. Remember, it says, *“For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.”*

Of course we would “never be moved” and never be afraid of “bad news” if God took all our bad news away the minute we asked him to take it away. But that would make God a glorified vending machine: put your money (*prayer*) in the slot, press the right combination of buttons (*say your prayer properly*) and, *voila!*, out pops the product you choose (*problem solved*). But how much faith does *that* take? Believing that God is bigger than our problems means we pray according to his will; to pray according to his will means what it meant when Jesus prayed in the garden, “not *my* will but **Yours** will be done.” I'm not afraid of bad news because, if I'm faithful, my future is secure in Christ. Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38-39). If I didn't have Christ, I would have plenty to worry about. Paul made that argument to the Gentiles, reminding them that at one time, when apart from Christ, they had no hope (Ephesians 2:12). Thank God, we have Jesus!

One other thing: God may not have a *specific* will in every circumstance we face. He may be content to let us work it out in the best way we know how, with the resources we have available and his word in hand. How does that apply to this current global health problem? God may have something in mind, I don't know. What I *do* know is that I can face this crisis, and any other, knowing that if I trust in God, things will work out — even if it kills me. — **dp**

Opinions expressed in this publication and all the photos used are my own. Email me at dpaulposey@mac.com or text me at (530) 558-5057