**Errors! Who doth understand?**

*Psalm 19:12*

**Introduction**

1. There is no denying the ceaseless struggle against sin – becoming a child of God does not take us out of a world where we face temptation every day.
2. There is no denying that the struggle is lost at times, resulting in sins against God – even for His children who are not characterized by it.
3. We know God’s word – what is right and wrong. We are ashamed when we sin against God. We may have the same feeling as the Psalmist – ***“Errors! who doth understand?” (Psalm 19:12, YLT)***
4. Some answer falsely – errors are a result of a sinful nature; We can’t help it, it’s just who we are.
5. The Bible reveals that sin is so contrary to our nature that it kills us when it creeps in.
6. **Psalm 19** implicitly reveals the reason for error, and directly gives us the solution.
7. Psalm 19 in Context
8. General Revelation of God in Creation **(vv. 1-6)**
   1. Personification – Heavens, firmament, day, night, sun – declare, show, utter, reveal, voice, line (sound), words.
   2. **(vv. 1-4a)** – the heavens and firmament show and tell of God’s glory, wisdom, and creative power – design boasts of a designer.
      1. **(v. 2)** – respective wonders of the sky in day and at night.
      2. **(vv. 3-4a)** – universal nature of this manifestation.
         1. ***“line”*** – **cf. Romans 10:18** – ***“sound”*** (**LXX**)
         2. **Cf. Acts 17:26-27** – God not far from anyone by His own design.
   3. **(vv. 4b-6)** – elaborated by example of the sun.
      1. ***“them”*** – heavens and firmament.
      2. **Tabernacle** – a dwelling place for the sun – ***“God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens’…Then God made…the greater light to rule the day” (Genesis 1:14, 16).***
      3. **(vv. 5-6)** – its light spreads across the globe, and all see and feel it.
   4. **Romans 1:20** – the general revelation erases all excuse for everyone.
9. Specific Revelation of God in His Word **(vv. 7-11)**
   1. God’s existence may be known through creation, but HE cannot be known except through revelation – **Acts 17:22-23; Romans 1:22-23**
   2. **Law** – a prefixed form of the word for “teach” – “body of prophetic teaching” (BDB) (all that God reveals for our instruction)
      1. **Perfect** – complete, whole, lacking nothing.
      2. **Converting the soul** – changing one, turning one to God, equipping one for fellowship with God (**cf. 2 Timothy 3:17**).
   3. **Testimony** – that which bears witness to a thing (truth).
      1. **Sure** – trustworthy – what it bears witness of is true. (not a false testimony)
      2. **Making wise the simple** – no guess work, but absolute certainty because it says so.
   4. **Statutes** – a rule, or law, boundary, limit, regulation.
      1. **Right** – i.e. correct, accurate, logical, reasonable, sound.
      2. **Rejoicing the heart** – brings joy because it provides safety, stability, fulfillment, purpose, sustenance, etc.
   5. **Commandment** – directives, requirements, imperatives.
      1. **Pure** – without ulterior motives, not vain or senseless, not harmful, not wrong, or filthy.
      2. **Enlightening the eyes** – brings one to knowledge of what God wants, and what our purpose is, directs our path.
   6. **Fear** – awe, but also dread and terror. (what the word produces in us)
      1. **Clean** – i.e. does not lead to filth or inappropriateness. (Fear of man or beast may lead one to do wrong things, but never the fear of God)
      2. **Enduring forever** – it is so powerful and deep it does not easily wane but remains as a constant warning or guardrail.
   7. **Judgments** – His decisions and revealed estimations of things and situations, His verdicts.
      1. **True and righteous** – He has never, and will never misjudge anything or anyone, He is always fair. (**cf. Psalms 51:4**)
   8. God’s word reveals His mind, and leads us to right action and judgment – **1 Corinthians 2:11-16**
   9. Value of the Revelation of God’s Word **(vv. 10-11)** – immeasurable value, preventative/protective, rewarding.
10. Petition of the Faithful **(vv. 12-14)**
    1. **(vv. 12-13)** – cleanse me of and keep me from sin and its dominion.
       1. Based on **verses 7-11** he knows that is accomplished through God’s word.
    2. **(v. 14)** – rather than sin, let my heart be dominated by what is right (according to Your word).
11. Errors! Who doth understand? **(v. 12)**
12. What it cannot and does not mean **(v. 12):**
    1. We cannot know all our sin – The idea contradicts the previous thoughts about God’s word **(vv. 7-9).**
       1. Contradicts other scripture – **Romans 3:20; Ephesians 5:17; Psalm 139:23-24** (show me where I err)
    2. Sins of ignorance that remain ignorant are forgiven if we ask for forgiveness in general – the idea contradicts what the very law David was under required – **cf. Leviticus 4:22-23** – must be known to be dealt with.
       1. Repentance and confession require knowledge – **Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9**
       2. ***“Secret”*** – *sâṯar* – to hide (by covering), literally or figuratively (STRONG)
          1. **One person/thing hiding self/something/etc. from another person/thing.**
          2. **82x – NEVER something hidden from self, i.e. ignorance.**
          3. Idea – **Numbers 5:11-13** (***“concealed,”*** *sâṯar*); **2 Samuel 12:12** (***“secretly,”*** *sêṯer*) – hiding it from others, or from God.
          4. Contrasted with ***“presumptuous sins”*** – highhanded rebellion, bold, open, unabashed.
       3. **NOTE: even if “secret faults” meant those of which we are ignorant, he is not saying they can never be discovered – the context of the Psalm shows that God’s word will reveal them in order to deal with them.**
13. A Bewildered Exclamation
    1. ***“Errors! who doth understand?” (YLT)*** – follows the original Hebrew order.
    2. ***Paraphrase – God has clearly revealed Himself and His will in His word in a way which sufficiently warns and directs us, but….ERROR! Men still sin, and even the faithful do err! Who can understand it!***
       1. Why is sin so prevalent if God’s word so clearly reveals it, and steers one clear of it?
       2. Why do even God’s own people still struggle against sin, and even still fail at times though God’s word is revealed, and clearly warns of consequence, and promises reward for faithfulness?
    3. **Cleanse me!**
       1. Implies even the faithful still struggle with sin and need cleansing.
       2. **What sort?** – ***“Secret”*** – it is not open, bold, and defiant, but in shame enough to do it secretly, or hide it – weakness, absent mindedness, ignorance, etc.
    4. Keep back Your servant!
       1. Implies this is not where he is, but where he doesn’t want to be.
       2. **Presumptuous** – rebellious, unashamed, open, bold – i.e. don’t let me get to the point of not caring that I sin against you.
    5. **(v. 13b)** – I want to be innocent, pure, undefiled, and I need your help!
    6. **Why do we still struggle with sin even though God’s word is so clear and accessible?**
       1. Sin is as old as the world – **Romans 5:12**
       2. The world is characterized by sin – **Ephesians 4:17-19; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:16**
       3. **It is not that something is broken within us as human beings, but that we are so surrounded by sin and its influence that we are constantly vulnerable to its danger – cf. Psalm 14:2-3**
       4. What can be done?
14. A Simple, Yet Powerful Solution
    1. **(v. 14)** – his request of God reflects his knowledge of what God has provided **(vv. 7-9)** to conquer sin in such an environment as the sin filled world.
       1. The message of his heart needs to be God’s will.
       2. **(v. 14b**) – he knows the Lord is His strength – through His word He empowers us to overcome.
    2. **Psalm 119:11, 19-20** – a treasuring of, and intense longing for God’s direction in His word that results in filling one’s mind with it will keep us from sin.
    3. **Romans 12:2** – true renewal of the mind – our minds have been trained and influenced by sin in the world, regardless of our upbringing.
       1. ***It is not what we were born with, but what we were born into – a sin filled world.***
       2. **If we are to stop sinning as we’ve been enticed to do, we must let God’s wonderfully powerful word take over our minds.**
    4. ***“Errors! who doth understand?” (Psalm 19:12, YLT)*** – though God’s word is extremely accessible, if we do not aggressively and diligently pursue it at all times then errors will inevitably creep in.

**Conclusion**

1. God has so clearly revealed Himself and His will that it is almost shocking that the world is still full of sin and is especially shocking when His own people decide to sin.
2. The problem is not a corrupt nature, or something particularly wrong with you. The problem is we live in a world where sin is pursued instead of God’s word.
3. Since the world has given themselves over to sin, we will inevitably be influenced since we live in the same world.
4. However, if we seek God’s will, and breath it as our very air, letting it take us over entirely, then we will conquer sin by God’s grace.