

"Nature as a Preacher." Psalms 19:1-14

1-Romantic Period: 1783-1850; Seemed to be a revival of Medieval thinking.

2-Two terms occurring often in the description or explanation of Romantic thought are:

1-Pantheism

1-Views the world and God as indistinguishable.

1-God is all things; All things are God.

2-Deism:

1-Taught that God is not only distinguishable from the world but dwells apart from the world and bears to it the relation of a clock-maker to the clock he has made and set going.

3-Deism acknowledged:

1-The human duty to obey and worship God.

2-A system of future rewards and punishment.

4-Deism broke from orthodoxy in its view of the source of these ideas:

1-Deism held that these truths were revealed in God's plan and conduct of the universe.

2-Deism, in face of this false conception, held that miraculous revelation (the Bible) was and is unnecessary.

4-The power of Nature as a teacher:

1-Nature can teach, but only such as are susceptible

2-Nature can proclaim the glory of God:

But only to

such as have already been brought to the knowledge of God.

3-Other preachers cannot continue by reason of death. Hence there is change. One succeeds another

4-However,

Nature, as a preacher, goes on without break or weariness from day to day and age to age bearing witness for God.

1-Acts 14:17;

Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

5-(The weakness of Nature as a teacher:)

1-Nature cannot tell us how sin is to be removed.

2-Nature cannot inspire hope. Cannot convert.

3-Hence;

The necessity of the Word.

6-The Necessity of the Word:

1-The Word or the Gospel is the Law:

1-By which is the knowledge of sin-Nature does not reveal sin.

2-By which salvation is revealed.

7-This passage may be regarded as teaching three things concerning the Word of God, or the Bible.

1-What it is. Six names are used, and six different statements are made with regard to the Bible

1-It is the Law of the Lord, and as such it is perfect.

2-It is the testimony of the Lord, and as such it is sure.

3-It is the statutes of the Lord, and the statutes of the Lord are right.

4-It is the commandment of the Lord.

1-It is not mere counsel or instruction.

2-It has all the authority and awfulness of commandment.

3-As such:

1-It is pure.

2-It is clear as crystal.

3-It is as illuminating as the light.

5-It is "the fear of the Lord." Religion.

6-Lastly, the Bible is spoken of as the Judgements of the Lord.

1-This refers to the administration of the Law

2-Based upon the eternal principles of right, They must themselves be eternal.

2-What the Bible does:

1-It converts the Soul 1-Tim.1:15;

This is a faithful

saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of which I am chief.

2-It makes "wise the simple: Psalms 119:30

I have chosen the

way of truth: thy judgements have I laid before me.

3-It "rejoices the heart. Acts 8:39.

4-It "enlightens the Eyes." Psalms 16:11;

Thou wilt show me

the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

5-It "endureth forever." 1-John 2:17; The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

3-What the Bible does next summer

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