What Is Man?
Psalm 8:1-9

Read Scripture Text

PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

There are many great questions in the Bible.

For example.................

*There’s that great question the Rich Young Ruler asked Jesus in MARK 10:17, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

*And how about that great question Pontius Pilate asked the Jews in MATTHEW 27:22 “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?”

*And remember how Cain answered God’s question with a question when God asked Cain the whereabouts of his brother Abel? Cain asked, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4:9)

*And let’s not forget that question Job asked when he was in the depths of misery and despair: Job asked, “If a man dies, will he live again?” (Job 14:14)

Questions are good for us. They make us think. They make us scratch beneath the surface. Questions cause us to reflect and meditate upon deeper truths.
In tonight’s message we want to consider one of the great questions in the Bible. It’s that question DAVID asks in VERSE 4 of this 8th Psalm.

What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?

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Pause........
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One of the most basic human needs we all have is the need for SIGNIFICANCE. Who among us here tonight doesn’t want to feel important, accepted, and appreciated? We all want to believe our life truly matters.

But have you ever been around someone who just had a way of making you feel worthless and insignificant?

illustration: For years I drove a little red GMC S-15 pickup. I was proud of that little truck even though the paint had faded......and it had vinyl seats, hand crank windows......and no air-conditioning or CD player.

But I’ll never forget one day when I was sitting at a stoplight in Greenville. A huge four-wheel drive Chevy pickup pulled up beside me. This truck was sitting so high up off the ground I could actually see the whole underneath side of the guy’s truck from my vantage point.

While I’m sure that guy had no ill-will or evil intent toward me, he made me feel so small and insignificant in my little truck.
Illustration: But then there are times we encounter people who seem to delight in making us feel worthless and insignificant.

I’ve got a sister-in-law who has one of the sharpest, most hurtful tongues of any one I have ever known. Any time I am around her she always says something cutting and hurtful that makes me feel about this tall.

Fortunately I only see her about one time a year, which is one time too many.

I’m sure you know some people like that, perhaps a relative, a boss, a supervisor, a co-worker, or perhaps even a fellow Church member.

As Christians it is important for us to understand that our true significance, value and worth does not come from how we are seen in the eyes of man, but rather how we are seen in the eyes of GOD!

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Transition to Scripture Text

The scripture text doesn’t tell us exactly where David was when he wrote this 8th Psalm, but verse 3 gives us a clue David was probably outside looking up at a beautiful starry sky.

vs. 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have set in place………

It makes me ask, “What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?
Here David was, this great, powerful KING of ISRAEL, a man who had slain the giant GOLIATH, a man who had led ISRAEL to many great victories in battle, and yet as he sits beneath the grandeur of God’s awesome creation, he can’t help but feel overwhelmed with the sense of his own SMALLNESS and INSIGNIFICANCE.

I can identify with how David must have felt can’t you?

illustration: Every night, either Linda or I one has to walk our big old 12 ½ year old Weimeraner dog one last time before we go to bed.

One night recently as I walked Ace I looked up at the beautiful star-filled sky and felt this overwhelming sense of my smallness.

That feeling of smallness prompted me to do some research……

* In Beaufort County, I am just one of 43,000 residents.

* In the State of North Carolina I am just one of 8 ½ million North Carolinians.

* In the United States, I am just one of nearly 300 million American citizens.

* On planet Earth I am just one of 6.8 billion inhabitants.

* And in this UNIVERSE which is estimated to be 8 Octillion Square Miles in size, that’s 8 with 28 zeros after it……I occupy approximately 5 square feet of space.
If in this vast universe I am nothing more than a tiny little speck, WHY WOULD GOD EVER GIVE LITTLE OLD ME AND LITTLE OLD YOU A SECOND THOUGHT?

And our scripture tonight teaches us GOD IS MINDFUL OF us and GOD DOES CARE ABOUT US!

The question we want to consider tonight is WHY? WHY IS GOD MINDFUL OF US? WHY ARE WE SO IMPORTANT TO GOD?

First of all, God is mindful of us because……..

I. Of All God’s Creation We Are the Most Important

READ: VERSES 5-8 again.

1. Everything God created has great importance:

   - THE SUN is important. The sun gives us light and heat. The sun is our greatest source of Vitamin D. The sun helps plants to grow, which then provides us with food which is vital for our survival. Without the sun the earth would become a froze, uninhabitable ball of ice.

   - THE MOON is important. The moon causes the rising and lowering of the ocean tides. The moon causes the churning of the ocean waters, which creates algae, which then creates oxygen that goes into our atmosphere so we can breathe. Without the moon, the oceans would become giant, smelly, stagnant pools of water.
-**THE MOUNTAINS** are important. The mountains are a great source of water, minerals and wind, all of which supply us with energy.

-**GRASS is important.** God could have chosen to just cover the earth in brown dirt, instead He chose to cover the ground with 9,000 varieties of luscious green grasses. Those grasses provide protection against soil erosion. Those grasses provide nutrition for animals as well as humans. The next time you eat that bowl of Wheaties or Oat meal or Rice Krispies, just realize you are eating the by-products of grass.

Of course without grass we wouldn’t have football, baseball and golf.

-**FLOWERS are important.** Not only do flowers color our world with awesome beauty, flowers produce sugars which attract bees, which in turn pollinate other plants to produce more vegetation. Flowers are also beneficial to scientists in the production of a number of medicines used by humans.

-Even **BUZZARDS are important!** God didn’t give buzzards the beauty of an American bald eagle or red-breasted robin. He created buzzards to do a very important job! Buzzards are God’s sanitation department. So the next time you see a flock of buzzards gathered around a stinky, dead animal carcass in the middle of the road, just remember God has sent them to do a job none of us wants to do.

2. **Everything God created is important! Everything He created has a special purpose and function.**

   But nothing in all of creation is more important to GOD than you and me.

3. **David is reminding us in this 8th Psalm that God crowned man with such glory and honor that He gave us dominion over all His creation.**
There is a second reason why God is mindful of you and me, and that is because

II. Of All of God’s Creation, We Alone Bear God’s IMAGE

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image. In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

1. The birds of the air were not created in the image of God. Nor were the beasts of the field or the creatures of the sea.

Only MAN was created in the IMAGE of Almighty God.

2. But just what does that mean?

(A) It doesn’t refer to bearing a “physical” resemblance to God, because John 4:24 tells us “God is spirit.” Instead it refers to a spiritual resemblance to God.

GOD is one and yet He has three very distinct natures: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

(B) God created you and me with the ability to REASON. That too is a reflection of God’s own image.

(C) God created you and me with the ability to BUILD and CREATE.

Skyscrapers, highways, automobiles, airplanes, rockets, Mount Rushmore, the Washington Monument, the Statue of Liberty, all of these things are products of man’s God-given ability to create and build. The ability to do these things is a reflection of God’s own image.
(D) God created you and me with the ability to communicate through **spoken** and **written** word.

Why don’t animals carry cell phones or send e-mails or write letters? Because they can’t communicate in verbal or written languages, that’s why!

Only man can communicate in those ways, because we were created in the glorious image of Almighty God.

(E) **God also created you and me with a free will.**

Just as God has the free will to choose His own actions ……..He gave us that same freedom.

We can choose to work or be lazy.  
We can choose to do right or do wrong.  
We can choose to obey the law or disobey the law.  
We can choose to accept Christ or reject Christ.

**This free will is a reflection of God’s own image.**

(F) **God also created you and me with the capacity to express emotions.**

We can laugh. We can cry. We can express love, compassion, and tenderness. We can show grace and mercy. We can express anger, disappointment and frustration. **This capacity to express emotions is a reflection of God’s image.**

3. **I think we can understand now why GOD is so mindful of you and me. When God looks at us, He sees a reflection of His own image.**

And because you and I were created in the image of God we are the only part of God’s creation that has the ability to **create.**
-Did you ever see a bunch of animals get together and build a skyscraper? Did you ever see an automobile factory run by animals?

-Did you ever see a bunch of birds get together to create an airplane to fly in so they wouldn’t have to work so hard?

Also because we are created in the image of God, we have the ability to learn and communicate in languages. Animals can communicate through sounds or through bodily gestures, but animals do not have the ability to learn, speak, write or communicate in verbal languages. Only man can do that because man is the greatest of all of God’s creation.

But not only is GOD mindful of me because I am the only thing in creation that bears His image……..

God is mindful of man because……..

Of all God’s creation, we are the most important. And of all God’s creation, we alone bear God’s image.

(Point #3 is on next page...............)}
There is third reason why God is mindful of man, and that is because........

III. Of All God’s Creation, We Alone Have An INFINITE SOUL

GENESIS 2:7 The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being. (Some translations say, “And man became a living SOUL.”)

1. Scientist tell us that the value of our human body in today’s market is less than $4.50. In other words, the chemicals and minerals in our human bodies have very little over-the-counter value.

Now obviously our life is more valuable than $4.50 to our loved ones and friends, isn’t it. To those who love us, our life is priceless. That is why we grieve so deeply when one we love dies.

2. But to GOD there is something of far greater value than our physical body and that is our SOUL.

OUR SOUL is that one part of our being that is NOT physical.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 The dust returns to the ground it came from and the spirit (soul) returns to God who gave it.

Our body gets sick or diseased, then dies. But our soul lives on. Our soul is immortal.
3. The Bible teaches us that our soul is of far greater value than all the riches of this world.

   - Mark 8:36 “For what will it profit a man if he gains the world and loses his own SOUL?”

   Nothing you and I possess is of greater value than our soul. Your soul is worth far more than all your combined earthly assets.

4. Our soul is so valuable to God He would rather be patient with all our weaknesses.....and all our failures......and all our ingratitude......than to destroy us.

   Our soul is so valuable to God He was willing to sacrifice the life of His only begotten Son rather than risk being separated from us for all eternity.

CONCLUSION

What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him? Tonight I hope we have answered this important question!

The next time you are overcome with a sense of worthlessness and you start thinking your life doesn’t matter, just remember HOW MUCH YOU MATTER TO GOD!

   Of all of God’s creation, YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT!

   Of all of God’s creation, YOU ALONE BEAR GOD’S IMAGE!

   Of all of God’s creation, YOU ALONE HAVE AN INFINITE SOUL!