WHAT IS MAN?

**DATE: 9/4/11 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 8:4**

**INTRODUCTION**

The **8th Psalm** is a beautiful psalm; that begins and ends with the *Wonder and Exaltation* of God

**V.1 – *“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Thy Name in all the earth!”***

**V.9 – *“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Thy Name in all the earth!”***

It’s a Psalm about – God, God’s Creation, Christ, and man

Like all else in life, this Psalm begins and ends with God

My question is *– “Are we prepared to meet God?”*

Before we begin this message, let’s by way of introduction look quickly at **Psalm 8**

I want you to notice the piecing question in the heart of this psalm

**V.4a** reads – ***“What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?”***

The question is - ***“What is man?”***

When the Bible asks a question, you can be sure that it will always answer it (maybe not in the same text)

**James 4:14 – *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”***

Consider men as they come and go (born and die)

The Bible’s answer to David’s question is that man is a ***“vapour”***

We appear for just a little while and then (puff) we’re gone!

That seems to imply such insignificant, (don’t you think?)

Yet at the same time we know, man is God’s Crowning Creation

David makes this statement after considering the night sky (remember David was a shepherd)

**v.3 – *“When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained;”***

In **Psalms19:1** David calls it God’s ***“handywork”* –**

***“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork”***

In other words – *“In light of all God’s creation, why is it that God considers man as precious”*

*“In light of all that God is and has done in creation, what is it about man that causes Him to be mindful of us?”* (David did not have what we have today either, telescopes etc.)

I believe **Psalm 8** answers this question for us

I want to try and answer this question by looking at 3 Relationships

Let’s pray, and look at this magnificent Psalm of David and answer the Question –

***“What is man, that Thou (O, Lord) art mindful of him?”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

The first Relationship I would like us to see is -

**I. MAN AND “COMPASSION”**

Our Question again is ***“What is Man?”***

Let’s first consider **Man and** **Compassion**

**Compassion** – *Is sympathy for the suffering of others, often including a desire to help*

We are not talking about the compassion that men have,

But rather the Compassion that God has for Man

**Jeremiah 31:3 – *“The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee”***

God is sympathetic toward our sufferings and has a desire to help

**Lamentations 3:22 – *“It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not”***

He cares for us

The amazing thought about this question is not the first part of the verse

But the second half, which states –

***“That Thou art mindful of him”*** (That God is mindful)

The amazing thought here is that God remembers us and that God cares for us (at all times)

**Psalm 40:17 – *“But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God”***

As David thinks on the Lord, he stands in awe and says

*“Lord, the thing that is incomprehensible to me is that You love me as much as You do!”*

**Job 7:17** says that God *Sets* His heart upon man –

***“What is man, that Thou shouldest magnify him? and that Thou shouldest set Thine heart upon him?”***

**Set** – *means to initiate action or a process*

When God looks at this world, He places the emphasis on you and I

He has compassion on us

Just think, the God of the Universe has placed such Attention, such Direction, and such Compassion on you and I!

**MAN AND “COMPASSION”** The Compassion of God

The Second Relationship I would like you to see is -

**II. MAN AND “CREATION”**

God’s Word tells us in **Genesis 1:26 –**

***“Let us make man in our image”***

Man DID NOT evolve from some lower primate

Man was created a full-grown, perfect being and allowed to live in innocence

Man was given Dominion **– v. 6** (our text)

**Genesis 1:26, 27**

Man was given Intelligence – **Genesis 2:19**

The unbelieving world says –

*“Save the whales and kill the babies”*

*“Spare the monkeys pain and afflict pain on the unborn”*

When God sees this world, He places the emphasis on mankind

Of course, God cares for all His creation, all of us should be responsible citizens

But we need to emphasize what God emphasizes –

*“****What is man that Thou art mindful of him?”***

Man was created by the very hand of God

God created man in His image

We are the Crowning and Special Creation of God

**II Peter 1:12 – *“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth”***

How are we made in God’s likeness?

Spirit, Soul, and Body

**I Thessalonians 5:23 – *“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”***

The Spirit is the residence of the Holy Spirit

It is what makes us God conscious

The Soul houses the emotions, intellect, and will

The Body responses to the natural world (5 senses)

When people are dead spiritually, the only thing they can relate to is the world

They cannot relate to God

This is why the Lord Jesus Christ said – ***“Ye must be born again”***

**I Corinthians 2:10-14**

Without the New Birth, someone is dead in their trespasses and sins

**Ephesians 2:1 - *“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”***

It is impossible for you to be all God meant for you to be when you are dead spiritually

A person may say -

That they want to be happy

That they want to have peace and fulfillment in life

They said that they are going to do this or that

Get married

Get an education

Get a good job, make lots of money

Buy a house

(You know, all the things we assume that will make us happy)

But not a one of these things will bring -

Peace, purpose, satisfaction, or fulfillment to our lives

Only God can

God has designed man in such a way, that he can find peace only in his relationship with Him

Then we bring that peace, purpose, satisfaction, that fulfillment into our homes and family, our churches

*Do not expect a substitute to do for you, what only God can do for you*

**MAN AND “COMPASSION”**

**MAN AND “CREATION”**

Lastly, look at the Relationship of -

**III. MAN AND “CHRIST”**

This psalm is not just about man;

It is about Christ, and what He came *to do for* man

What man *could not* do for himself

We read in **vs. 4 & 5** (emphasize **v. 5**)

This verse as duo meaning

While it is talking about man in general

It is also pointing to the Son of God Who was to come

The first man, Adam sinned against God

Mankind fell into sin

We had to be saved from the penalty of that sin

***“thou shalt surely die” -* Genesis 2:17**

***“The wages of sin is death”*** and hell

There had to be a second Adam, Someone perfect

One that knew no sin

The only one that could not sin, is God Himself

**II Corinthians 5:21 *– “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

Sin, the Bible says must be paid for

In **Matthew 21** we find Jesus on His way to the Cross

In **vs. 1-11** we find His Triumphal entrance into Jerusalem

In **vs. 12, 13** we find the cleansing of the Temple

In **vs. 14 & 15** we find our Lord healing the lame and the blind

And also the children crying out ***“Hosanna to the son of David”***

Notice that the chief priest and scribes ***“were sore displeased”***

**V. 16** states – ***“hearest thou what these say?”***

Notice *now,* our Saviour’s response

***“And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?”***

Jesus quotes from **Psalm 8:2**

This verse speak of what Messiah came to do for fallen man (2nd half of verse)

Jesus in quoting this psalm, is identifying Himself with this Psalm

Jesus is identifying with you and I

In **I Corinthians 15** the apostle Paul writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit concerning **Psalm 8**

We read in **vs. 20-22**

In other words, God wants to make man what He meant for man to be

And return to him even more than what he lost in the fall

We continue in **vs. 23-28**

Notice the statement – ***“all things under his feet”* – v.25**

Paul is referring here to **Psalm 8**

He said that God gave man Dominion (ruling control)

But because of the fall, man lost that Dominion

Jesus Christ has won back that Dominion

When He returns again He will present that Dominion

again to man

We will rule and reign with Him

What we gain through the cross is more than we ever possessed in the garden

Look with me at **Hebrews 2**

Part of **Hebrews 2** forms a commentary on the  **Psalm 8**

We Read in **vs. 5 & 6**

He quotes **Psalm 8** in **v.6**, then explains the psalm

We read **vs. 7 & 8**

It is not yet placed under Him

But it is going to be

Who is He?

What is the writer of Hebrews talking about?

Look at **v.9** – ***“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death…”***

Why did He have to suffer death?

God saw that man without Christ was lost, dead, blind, and under His wrath

This is not what He created us to be

So Christ came from Heaven and was made a little lower than the angels

Why was He made lower than the angels?

***“for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man”***

We read in **vs. 10-18**

This passage tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ willingly came

He became a man, not an angel, but sinless man

Never once ceasing to be God

Why did He become a man?

You see, in the beginning when God created man

He created him in His own image –

→ To Walk with Him

→ To Fellowship with Him

→ To Know Him

But man fell into sin

We lost our fellowship with God

Jesus restored all that, IF we will just recognize our sinful condition before a Holy God

**CONCLUSION**

We cannot make it alone, and we cannot be what God wants us to be through another human being

We must stop thinking that our failures are because of someone else

We must understand that what we need is a personal relationship with God

We blame others too often for things for which they are not responsible

I am responsible for walking with God and being a better person

The same is true for you also

***“What is man that thou art mindful of him?”***

**CLOSING PRAYER AND INVITATION**