

Scripture Reference: Psalm 8

Date: August 11, 2013

Title: "Who is Humanity?"

Focus: Humanity is the Image of God (Biblical World View Series 3 of 10)

Intro:

1. "Who is humanity?" This question has been on the lips of mankind for ages. As is evident in Psalm 8 even David pondered this issue.

2. This is not a question of *type*, "*What* is mankind?" But of identity, "*Who* is mankind?" In this endeavor we are seeking to understand ourselves as well as the purpose and meaning to our existence.

3. David's answer was found as he contemplated the rest of God's creation. David did not seek an understanding within him to who man is. He sought it from without. He looked beyond himself for understanding.

4. Who humanity is was revealed to him. Coming from beyond himself, from God, it is free of bias and is untainted by sin. What did this revelation show in regard to who humanity is?

Body:

vv. 1-4; Any Meaningful Consideration of Humanity Must Center on God

vv. 1-2; Why? Because He is Lord, the governor of creation. He is over the earth, dominant, the ruler of all.

He is the source of life, of existence, of meaning. He is the origin of everything. He is the fountain from which all flow.

God is the one able to pour forth strength from the mouths of infants and put down those who oppose Him.

vv. 3-4; Mankind is not. We are part of God's creation and therefore incapable of answering the question of our origin, character, and purpose alone.

God is independent of creation, you and I are dependent, in every way imaginable.

Our dependence is seen in the asking of the question, "*Where does man fit into your creation?*" (v. 3) and "*What is it about humankind that you even consider us?*" (v. 4).

It is not possible to properly consider humanity apart from God any more than fire can be considered apart from the item that burns

vv. 5-8; Humanity is the Image of God

v. 5; Man has not climbed the evolutionary ladder and is therefore greater than animals. He is fashioned by God. Being in His image, he reflects God.

Being male and female in His image gives humanity glory and majesty. The distinctiveness is seen in our thoughts, affections, and actions.

Though apart from redemption, the "*glory and majesty*" of humanity is obscured by a film of corruption due to sin.

Still, humankind retains value unlike the remainder of creation, young or old, born or unborn, native or foreigner. No one is a waste of human flesh.

vv. 6-8; Man is dominant over creation because he is God's representative.

Our stewardship over creation is not because we are the strongest or smartest ("survival of the fittest")

As a reflection of God's rule over all creation, we have rule over ours. This domain becomes the venue in which we manifest Him.

It is our inability to manage creation as He would that testifies to our continued need for Him.

v. 9; Man Glorifies God

Through humanity, God is magnified. This is true in the case of the redeemed as well as the unredeemed.

Those who have surrendered their lives to Him, the redeemed, live with the intent and purpose of being transformed into His image. They make it their purpose that God shine in them.

Those who do not live in a relationship with God, the unredeemed, live life by their own accord and their lives bear witness of that fact.

Either way, God is seen.

Closing:

1. Who is humanity? You are a being created to reflect the very person of God in who you are and in what you do.
2. I hope you also accept your inability to live up to this because of sin.
3. So, rather than redefine yourself as something less than what God has created you to be, I invite you to surrender your life to Him in order to live to the fullest potential of life.

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