

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sun 6th Aug 2023

Genesis Ch 1:26-27

Starting with Psalm 8 a passage that is related to Genesis Ch 1

Psalm 8

God's Glory, Human Dignity

For the choir director: on the *Gittite*. A psalm of David.

¹ LORD, our Lord,
how magnificent is your name throughout the earth!
You have covered the heavens with your majesty.^[a]

²From the mouths of infants and nursing babies,
you have established a stronghold^[b]
on account of your adversaries
in order to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³When I observe your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you set in place,

⁴what is a human being that you remember him,
a son of man^[c] that you look after him?

⁵You made him little less than God^{[d][e]}
and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
you put everything under his feet:

⁷all the sheep and oxen,
as well as the animals in the wild,

⁸the birds of the sky,
and the fish of the sea
that pass through the currents of the seas.

⁹LORD, our Lord,
how magnificent is your name throughout the earth!

Talking about created in the Image of God.

Genesis 1:26-27 Christian Standard Bible

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man^[a] in^[b] our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl^[c] on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man
in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.

(Moses says...)

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit involved in creation.

Genesis 1:16 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars.

God is amazing when you think about how the stars were an afterthought in the fact that they were the last thing.

“as well as the stars”.

Genesis 1 is specific about that the fact about humans’ beings being created in the image of God.

- This is more profound than we have possibly given thought!

Question – What is my purpose? Why am I here?

The big question of life – our purpose.

We are to be reminded – we as humans tend to do one of two things!

1. Elevate our place to that of God.
2. Debase (lower/ degrade) ourselves to the lower level of animals.

- Our Purpose is to glorify God, serve and worship him forever, enjoying him forever.

Isaiah 43:7 Christian Standard Bible

⁷ everyone who bears my name
and is created for my glory.
I have formed them; indeed, I have made them.”

1 Corinthians 10:31 Christian Standard Bible

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

- Everything for God’s glory.

Romans 11:36 Christian Standard Bible

³⁶ For from him and through him
and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever. Amen.

- For Him and through Him

This why we exist!

- Problem –

We have lost sight of this, as sin has entered the picture.

- Triune God

Together the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit said – we are going to make man in our image.

Question – What does this mean?

First, we have to look at what it doesn’t mean!

- That we are little gods.
- That we have a spark of divinity in us.

As human beings we are not able to speak things into creation!

“God is the creator we are not”!

We are not...

Omniscience – All knowing.

Omnipresent – Ever present – in and through all things.

Omnipotent – All Powerful.

God is!

- We need to stop trying.
- And we are also not animals – that are more evolved – thinking that we just reside with the animals.

We are to rule over the animals.

3 Areas.

Intellect – Emotions – Will

1. Relational beings – as God is relational.

Reference made to R.C. Sproul quote.

Engage in – think – reason – reflect.

- We possess creativity – creative in the way that we design things.

Example – Portraits – Rembrandt – Christ on The Cross and Rembrandt putting himself in the painting as one of those at the foot of the cross.

- He was gifted to paint – an immensely creative man.

Our creativity sometimes used to reflect God's glory, other times it is used to reflect our own!

God designed it with – structure – meaning – purpose and design.

Similarities

- Look at all the chromosomal likenesses we have in relation to animals – this would be the viewpoint of some scientists.

There are design similarities in God's creative work – which work in both science and math that he created.

In personality we are unique – but not in reason and reflection.

Reference made to an Adrian Rogers quote.

- We weren't created to act like animals – that is why we struggle with irrational things.

An important area to cover is the follow.

The idea of that, as a man I can become a woman.

- It is not God's design.
- It does not make sense in light of God's word.
- We are created in the image of God – Male and Female.

2. We are Relational beings as God is relational.

Genesis 2:24-25 Christian Standard Bible

²⁴This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

This scripture explains the very first marriage – intimate relationship in the grounds of marriage.

- God is a relational being.
- We tend to put ourselves on the same level as God!

God did not need a relationship with us – he created us so that we could have a relationship with him.

John 17:24 Christian Standard Bible

²⁴“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world's foundation.

- God is a relational God.

Genesis 5:1-3 Christian Standard Bible

The Line of Seth

⁵ This is the document containing the family^[a] records of Adam.^[b] On the day that God created man,^[c] he made him in the likeness of God; ² he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and called them mankind.^[d]

³ Adam was 130 years old when he fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

As human beings we constantly undermine the relational structures that God put in place for us.

- Example – divorce.

We are attacking the image of God.

3. God created us in His image.

- We are moral.
- At this point sin hasn't entered the picture.
- Adam and Eve were sinless – no corruption or pollution of everything.
- They had the capacity to do what was right as they were created.

In the original creation man was free.

- Exactly what God had said within His parameters.
- A marriage relationship.

Genesis 1:29 Christian Standard Bible

²⁹God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you,

In Genesis Ch 2 – there was one restriction...

- Don't eat the fruit of this tree!
- All the rest you may enjoy.

Genesis 2:15 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

God set the moral parameters for Adam and Eve.

In Genesis Ch 3 – they rebelled against God – polluting everything since then.

We now cast off – Dignity – devalue human beings – mistreat one another.

Referencing the International Justice Mission and the opportunity that the VS had to raise \$4440 to support families who had had children sold.

Question – Why does this Mission even exist?

Reference made to a quote from a movie –

"You can sell drugs once, but you can sell a child multiple times a day".

As human beings we have devalued other human beings.

- We are so valuable to God.

Genesis 9:5 Christian Standard Bible

⁵And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood;^[a] I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person's life.

- God immensely values human beings.
- We have moved away from this.
- Abortion – Medically assisted suicide.
- The world tries to paint these things in the best possible way.

At that moment we are throwing human dignity in the face of God.

Question – What do we do as human beings?

James 3:9-10 Christian Standard Bible

⁹With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way.

- "These things should not be this way".
- Our words

We are all called as Christians to live as in God's image.

Ephesians 4:24 Christian Standard Bible

²⁴and to put on^[a] the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.

- Live a new way.
- Put on new self.

All that much more be the image bearers of God.

- Righteousness and purity of love.
- A holy and righteous life – reflecting the image of God.

Colossians 3:9-10 Christian Standard Bible

⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your^[a] Creator.

- If we don't do this, we are deceiving people.
- The more that we know and understand – strengthening our relationship with God.
- So that, we can bear His image.

Question – How can it be restored?

Reference made to Matthew 28

Question – What are we called to do?

- make disciples – the great commission.
- Not to. Make my life better!
- The only way that God's image can be displayed to a lost and dying world is by more and more people reflecting the image of God.

Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

- Jesus specifically met with this woman.
- She was guilty of defacing the image of God.
- But Jesus loved her so much that he met her at the well.

Question – Why?

Because she was valuable to Jesus.

Closing Reflection

"How Great Thou Art" Lyrics

O Lord my God, When I, in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"