



What Is Man?

(Part 1)

Psalm 8

Genesis 1:26-31; Ephesians 4:17-24

Another Month!

- Have you grown as a disciple of Christ in the past eight months?
- Have you been a good and faithful steward of the time (weeks, days, hours) that God has granted you this year? How will you answer for your stewardship? (Hebrews 4:13)
- Have you grown as a member of the Church? Are you intimately growing with others? Do you see that your growth is important to others? Is your growth significant to the other members of the Church? (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:1-16)
- Are you living your life on “every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”? (Luke 4:4) Or are you living as you please?
- Are you heeding the warnings of drifting away? (Hebrews 2:1-4)
- Has your prayer life changed? Are you praying with the Church? (Col 4:2)
- Have you grown in your knowledge of doctrine? (2 Peter 3:17-18; 1 Tim 4:13-16; 2 Tim 4:1-4)
- What are your plans for growth in the next four months? (2 Peter 3:17-18)
- How are your five D's of discipleship doing?
 - **Desire** - do you have a real desire to grow as a disciple **with** others.
 - **Determination** - are you determined to grow and have a plan to fulfill God's command to grow and mature as a Christian with others?
 - **Discipline** - are you disciplined in your discipleship? Or do you allow the world (which is under the influence of the wicked one) to pull you away from what God commands? Do you put your God-given obligations aside when your worldly responsibilities get in the way?
 - **Diligence** - do you give your all to God (Luke 14:33) or do you give your “leftovers” to God and your discipleship.
 - **Doing** - are you a **doer** of God's commands? Do you take His commands to grow and mature seriously? (James 1:22; Matt 7:21-29; 12:50; 1 John 2:29-3:10)

ABC's of Being A Christian (Hebrews 5:12-14)

- Are you a teacher? Are you a discipler? Who are you discipling?

Do You Know the God of the Bible? (Isaiah 1:3-4)

- See Jeremiah 4:22; 8:7-9; Hosea 4:1, 6; Romans 1:22; 3:11; Psalm 14:1
- Does the God of the Bible fill you with AWE? (Deut 7:21; 10:17, 21; 28:58; Nehemiah 9:32; Psalm 33:8; 47:2; 65:5; 66:3, 5)
- Those who know God obey His commandments. (1 John 2:3-4)

Do You Know Your Enemy? (1 Peter 5:8-9)

- We live in enemy territory! The **whole** world lies under the influence of Satan. (1 John 5:19) The world we live in is DANGEROUS!
- Does this cause you to . . .
 - ① Be sober/vigilant.
 - ② Watchful/circumspect.
 - ③ Resist by being steadfast in the faith.
 - ④ Prayerful? (Matthew 26:41; 6:13)

Do You Know YOURSELF?

- Why are you who you are?
- Why were you born when you were born?
- Why were you born where you were born?
- Are you an independent person depended on no one?
- Are you a free person, free to do as you please when you please?
- Is your life your life or do you belong to someone else?
- Do you determine your life or is your life determined for you?
- Who holds your destiny?
- What happens when you die?

What Is Man? Who Am I?

- In today's western thought one has really one of two options in believing where man came from:
 - ① About 14 billion years ago there was an explosion and space and matter began to take form. Ten billion years later man appeared after evolving from nothing into the complex creature that he/she is today. Everything happened by chance and there is no God/Creator.
 - OR**
 - ② God created everything including man and woman.
- Danger of believing option #1: If there is no God, then there is no right and wrong, humans have no value, we live, we die and that is all. If this is true then no man/woman can tell another what is right and wrong. There is no truth. There is no morality. Everyone has the right to do as he/she desires.

- In believing in option #2, one admits that there is a Creator and that he/she is a creature. As a creature, one owe everything to the Creator and is completely dependent on the Creator for everything.
- In believing in option #1 you are declaring that you are God. You decide how you should live your life, no one can tell you what to do or not to do. You have the right to live as you please.
- In believing in option #2 you are declaring that God is God and as a creature you are obligated to bow down and worship and obey Him. You acknowledge that your body, soul, and spirit belongs to God.
- In believing in option #1 one believes that everything exists and happens by chance.
- In believing in option #2 one believes that everything exists and happens by the will/design/direction/plan of God. There is no such thing as chance in God's world. That would mean things happen outside the control of God. And that just cannot be. (Rev 4:11; Lam 3:37-38; Dan 2:20-23; Rom 11:36; Isa 46:10-11; Ephesians 1:11; Acts 2:23; 4:28)
- There are no other options!

The Value of Man in God's Eyes (Genesis 1:26-31)

- The first twenty-five verses of the Bible deal with God and God alone!
→ But those twenty-five verses was to provide a place for His greatest creation to exist. (Isaiah 45:18)
- **MEDITATE ON:** The rest of the Bible (ca. 30,978 verses) deal with God dealing with man!
- God created man "in His own image; in the image of God He created both male and female. . ." (Genesis 1:26-27)
 - ★ That image was "in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:24).
 - ★ God created man pure, righteous, and holy.
- God created the whole man; He created man with . . .
 - ① A MIND - so that man could know God, His Creator.
 - ② EMOTIONS - so that man could love God, His Creator.
 - ③ WILL - so that man could obey God, His Creator.
- God gave man, no other of His creatures, dominion over "over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Gen 1:26, 28; Psalm 8:6-8)

What Is Man? (Psalm 8)

- (v. 1) "O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth"
- (v. 1) "You have set Your glory **above** the heavens!"
- (v. 2) God can do great things with small things.
- (v. 3) "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers . . ." – See Psalm 19:1-6

- (v. 3) Remember Isaiah 45:18 - the Earth was formed *for* man.
- (v. 4) What is man? - he is less than nothing! (Isa 40:15, 17, 22)
- (v. 4) What is man (Heb. *enosh* - weaklings - Psalm 90:2); the son of Adam (the man who rebelled) that You are **mindful** of him?
- (v. 4) What is man "that You should visit Him" - care for; actually come to save His people from their sins! (Matthew 1:21)
- (vv. 5-8) What is man that You "crowned him with glory and honor" and gave him dominion over the works of Your hands!
- ★ And Adam squandered all this away!!!

BUT WE SEE JESUS - the Second Adam!

(Hebrews 2:9)

A Close Look at Man from God's Perspective

- Do you know yourself? Do you know yourself as you ought to know yourself?
Do you know yourself as God know you?
- In our **ABC's** we will look at man as he is revealed in God's Word.
 - ① Man as God originally created Him.
 - ② Man falls into sin.
 - ③ Man re-created into a new creature..
 - ④ Man glorified.

Are You Watching?

What Will Watching the Moon Teach Us?

- ① It will cause us to ask, "Have I truly been born again?" (John 3:1-8)
- ② It will remind us that we have been called out darkness into marvelous light, because **GOD shined HIS light on us!** (2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 2:9)
- ③ It will remind us that GOD has a plan and soon that plan will end. (Jeremiah 8:20; Luke 13:24-25)
- ④ It will remind us that we must be *busy* in the harvest. (*doing*) (Luke 12:43)
 - Being used by GOD to share the Good News to others.
 - Bearing *much fruit* for the glory of God!
 - Doing the works that we were unto. (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14)
- ⑤ It will remind us that we are to be **seriously watching!** (Luke 12:37)
 - Watching for our Lord's soon return for His own. (Hebrews 9:27-28)
 - Watching and being sober about our lives. (Titus 2:11-14)
- ⑥ It will teach us that we are **signs** for others to see. (Matthew 5:16)
- ⑦ It will remind us that there is no light in ourselves. We are to reflect the light of "**the Sun of Righteousness.**" (Malachi 4:2)
- ⑧ It will remind us that we fall short of GOD's glory. The moon only reflects about 7% of the light shone on it.
- ⑨ Our focus must be on the OBJECT and not the SHADOW. (Col 2:16-17)