

VOTC.2

Reading: Psalm 8.

What is my purpose? Why do I matter? To understand the answer to that question you need to understand two things: You need to understand who God is and who you are. Psalm 8 lays out truths about God and man in simple terms. God reveals himself in his creation, and he reveals himself in his relationship with mankind. Psalm 8 tells of the Lord of the universe who demonstrates his glory in the heavens and in mankind.

Verse 1 tells us that God has set his glory in the heavens. When we look out into the skies on a starry night, or we experience the intensity of the sun, we see and feel something of God's glory. The skies are a highly fitting place for God's glory, high above the earth for all mankind to see.

Through the research of scientists over the couple hundred years, we have discovered more and more about these heavens. We can think of the millions of stars and the galaxies that are out there. God has created all these galaxies and stars and solar systems for us. Think of the vast distances that we may travel through space, the lightyears that are between stars and galaxies. Think of the place where earth stands; as a medium-sized planet among millions of others.

We feel something of the insignificance the Psalmist may have felt as he looked up into the skies and wondered at the glory that God has put there. Our insignificance... and the glory of our Almighty God.

When we think of the mysteries of astronomy, when we study the stars and the planets and consider what is going on out there; and how insignificant we are when compared to galaxy upon galaxy, we should be amazed at the greatness of God. Here is evidence of the creator God and the wonders that he has done. Here is evidence that the glory of our God is far beyond our grasp. We cannot even grasp the fullness of the glory and beauty of space; much less the breadth and the width of the God's nature.

God is beyond all the empty reaches of space. He created all these empty reaches. He stretched them out. And he put his glory in them through the light-bearers, the stars, the sun, and the moon.

This glory that God has put in the heavens is a Testament to mankind of the truth of who God is. Psalm 19 tells us that it speaks to us. Romans 1 tells us that all people know God's power and divinity deep down. However, they suppress this truth in unrighteousness.

This God powerful, holy, fearsome, and majestic has decided to create man and woman. He not only creates them but he cares deeply about them and their offspring. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman rejected God's goodness. Men and women continue to do so today. They suppress the God that has revealed his glory in the heavens and make a God in their image. Yet God continues to show his mercy to mankind.

He does through by establishing praise in the mouths of babies and infants. There is a literal aspect here and a figurative one. God literally uses children to establish strength. Because of their implicit trust in God, they teach adult Christians how they ought to come before God. God wants all people to come before him with the same kind of trust that a small child put in his father and mother. In this way,

infants and babies are used to establish strength. By establishing strength through babies, God also establishes glory here on earth.

But babies and infants are also being used figuratively. Before the almighty God, all of mankind are like babies. In Hebrew, the word for man in verse 4 is weak-man. Why would God be mindful of weak-man? The children of verse 2 are meant to picture all those who come before God with child-like faith. When we come to God and glorify him, he establishes his glory in us. However, we must do so, recognizing ourselves for who we are, weak and unable to live up to the holiness of God.

God uses the humble things of this world to establish his glory. He establishes strength through these because of “your foes, the enemy and the avenger,” God’s glory in the skies speaks of God’s divinity and his nature. It leaves the enemies of God without excuse. But God is doing something more. He wants to show the enemies of God the greatness of his power and his love.

So he uses weakness to silence the enemy and the avenger. Through the praises of the humble, he calls the proud to repentance. He uses the foolish things of this world to undo the proud. The greatest example of this is our Lord Jesus’ victory at the moment he was dying, nailed to the cross. That is the greatness of the power of God.

This all ties into the question we asked at the beginning of this lesson. What is your purpose? Your purpose is to worship God. He calls you to find a place where you can join his people in worshipping him. You can reject that purpose that God has put deep into your DNA. But that is the way of death and destruction.

I encourage you to seek God out. God witnesses to himself through the creation, through the glory of the heavens. He also witnesses to himself through the churches, which remain faithful to him. Despite the rebellion of man, God has provided a living way through the Lord Jesus Christ so that every man may come and worship at his throne. He calls all men to leave the path they are currently walking and instead walk in the way of Jesus, who is the truth, the life, and the way. There you will find true meaning and purpose. And more... God calls you to humble yourself before him, so that on the final day he may exalt you.