

SOUNDTRACK: Encountering Jesus in the Songs of Scripture

Week 9: Psalm 8

Introduction: “Who am I?” is one of the oldest, yet weightiest, questions people struggle to answer. In our search for meaning, purpose and significance, most of us fall way short of finding a satisfying answer. Psalm 8 wrestles with the same concept:

“What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”

Psalm 8 shines intentional and powerful light on the question. In seeking the answer to this question, the song writer, David, first attests in awe to God’s majestic splendor. In light of God’s majesty, the image of God in humanity is seen. Out of God’s essence—namely His glory, honor and power—humans can truly find themselves—in spite of the broken and marred image we carry each day.

The Big Picture: In order to truly know myself, I must know God truly.

Discussion:

Share:

- Who are some of the most positively influential people in your life? How do they help make you a better person?

Discuss:

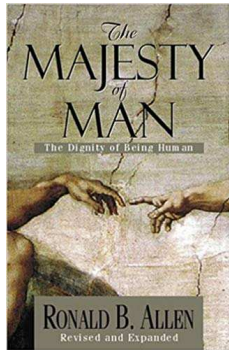
Sermon Review:

- Re-read Psalm 8.
- Review the sermon from this week. Write down any questions or thoughts that stand out to you as you review the sermon together. Discuss them as a group.
Link: <https://www.cornerstonecrystal.org/messages/>
- What do you think knowing God has to do with knowing yourself?
- How do you think verse 2 shows God’s glory, honor or power?
- “You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings” (v. 5) is difficult to translate. The Hebrew word used is “*elohim*”, typically referring in plural to other “gods” in the ancient world. Genesis 1 records this word in reference to the Christian Trinity (Father, Son and Spirit). Thus verse 8 could read, “you have made humans a little lower than God”. Most translations take a broader approach and say “heavenly beings” which can include all non-human inhabitants of heaven (God and angels). Based on Genesis 1 and the broader narrative of Scripture, Pastor Jeremy affirms a translation that reads, “a little lower than God”.

What do you think? What significance do you see comes when this verse is translated this way?

- How does being made in the image of God establish the dignity of humanity?
- Where do you see human dignity is furthest from God's design and intention for people?

Further Exploration on this Topic:



The Majesty of Man: The Dignity of Being Human by Ronald B. Allen

From the Publisher: "What is man that you are mindful of him?" the psalmist asks. Secular humanists answer that man is nothing but molecules of matter. Ron Allen answers the psalmist's question with an enthusiastic reminder that we were created in the image of our majestic God.

Personal Note from Jeremy: Dr. Ronald B. Allen is a personal mentor and considered one of the foremost authorities on Biblical poetry. His academic career is only surpassed by his humble love for Christ and His word. Not only was Dr. Allen a challenging professor, but has been a trusted voice in my life in the years since being at DTS.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Majesty-Man-Dignity-Being-Human/dp/082542139X>