

July 29, 2018

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## TIME OF REFLECTION

“O the grandeur and the littleness, the excellence and the corruption, the majesty and the meanness, of man.”

“Man is only a reed, the weakest in nature, but he is a thinking reed. There is no need for the whole universe to take up arms to crush him: a vapour, a drop of water is enough to kill him. but even if the universe were to crush him, man would still be nobler than his slayer, because he knows that he is dying and the advantage the universe has over him. The universe knows none of this.”

~Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), French mathematician and thinker

“When I have gazed into these stars, have they not looked down upon me as if with pity from their serene spaces, like eyes glistening with heavenly tears over the little lot of man?”

~Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), Scottish writer and historian

“What matters supremely, therefore, is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it—the fact that *He knows me*. I am graven on the palms of His hands. I am never out of His mind. All my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiative in knowing me. I know Him because He first knew me, and continues to know me. He knows me as a friend, one who loves me; and there is no moment when His eye is off me, or His attention distracted from me, and no moment, therefore, when his care falters.”

~J.I. Packer in *Knowing God*

“The meaning of earthly existence lies not, as we have grown used to thinking, in prospering but in the development of the soul.”

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008), Russian novelist and Soviet dissident

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “The Majesty of God and the Glory of Man” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *Psalm 8:1-9, Hebrews 2:5-9 (ESV)*

*Psalm 8*

*To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David*

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.
- <sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babies and infants,  
you have established strength because of your foes,  
to still the enemy and the avenger.
- <sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
<sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?
- <sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.
- <sup>6</sup> You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under his feet,  
<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup> the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- <sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*Hebrew 2*

<sup>5</sup> For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup> It has been testified somewhere,

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

<sup>7</sup> You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned him with glory and honor,

<sup>8</sup> putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup> But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.