

Sunday Night Message

July 29, 2012

When I Consider - Psalm 8

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 8

Introduction

"[To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.]

“upon Gittith” – mentioned also in Psalm 81, and Psalm 84 - uncertain instrument – believed by some to be referring to an instrument used by the people of Gath, a city of the Philistines. It is thought to be a harp-like instrument. Others believe it has something to do with wine-dressers, and press-treaders.

This Psalm is classified as a Messianic Psalm, not necessarily because of its direct references to the Messiah, but because of it is a Psalm that is often referred to in the New Testament, and is specifically quoted by the Lord Jesus.

It is certainly a psalm of praise, and is also a Creation Psalm(or Nature Psalm), because of all of the references to God’s Creation.

This Psalm begins and ends with the same phrase. This can be seen in some of the other Psalms, especially in the last five Psalms that begin and end with the phrase “praise ye the Lord”.

The Psalmist is introducing the thought, “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth”; and then he explains why he thinks the Lord’s name is excellent; and then for emphasis, he repeats his introductory phrase.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens." - (Psalm 8:1)

God’s name is excellent. 47 times in the Psalms, the phrase “thy name” is used referring to God, and nearly all are in connection with praising His name.

"Thy name, O LORD, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations." - (Psalm 135:13)

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." - (Philippians 2:9-11)

David boldly declares the excellency of the name of God, and then will support that statement with three considerations, which will explain why he feels the way he does. He not only knows what he believes, he knows why he believes it.

Three considerations that support David's proclamation:

I Consider the Contrast

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger." - (Psalm 8:2)

Between the "weak" and the "strong"

Between those seen by the world as foolish, and those who are thought to be wise.

Jesus quoted from this passage in Matthew 21:16 (See Matthew 21:12 – 17)

You will notice that what Jesus said was slightly different than what was given in Psalm 8. I like what Matthew Henry said about this passage. He said that strength is ordained through the perfection of praise. Spiritual strength comes through the vehicle of praise.

It was the little David that conquered the mighty Goliath.

It was the little army of Gideon that conquered the Mideonites.

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the

things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." - (1 Corinthians 1:25-31)

God doesn't need, nor does he use superstars. He uses little people, who understand that they have a mighty God. Why? So God get's all the glory.

Don't steal God's glory. Don't try to claim any credit. All of the glory, honor, and praise belongs to Him.

II Consider the Creation

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;" - (Psalm 8:3)

See also Psalm 19; 29; 104; and 148

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" - (Romans 1:19-20)

The Creation will point the earnest seeker to God, and only God.
(Illustrate – Sack Worms)

God often asks us to consider a part of his Creation, because it points us back to Him:

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." - (Proverbs 6:6-8)

"And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" - (Matthew 6:28-30)

The danger is that those who do not want to know the Creator start worshipping the Creation instead of the Creator.

III Consider His Consideration of Us

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" - (Psalm 8:4)

"For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour." - (Psalm 8:5)

"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:" - (Psalm 8:6)

"All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;" - (Psalm 8:7)

"The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas." - (Psalm 8:8)

Vs. 4 – 8 point to man as he was originally created in the Garden of Eden.

The Book of Hebrews refers to this passage: See Hebrews 2: 5 – 9

“What Is Man?” Why does God love us? We have no intrinsic value. We have no spiritual value in ourselves – even our hearts are desperately wicked. Yet – God loves us.

There is no answer. There is nothing about us that is loveable. It is only because of the grace of God that He loves us.

By the way – with Christ now in us, we should be able to share a little of that grace love to the unlovable people around us.

When we consider these things like David did, we will come to the same conclusion. God is awesome!

"O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" - (Psalm 8:9)