

## Written Copy: Psalm 8:3-9 “Who You Are to the Triune God”

Holy Trinity Sunday

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Text: Psalm 8:3-9

<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!

### Exegetical Statement (the text’s context)

The Triune God’s majesty, glory, and power is displayed in the complexity, and enormity of His creation that is beyond human comprehension. And regarding those who believe they can prove and explain away His existence and work, the praise and confession of children and infants who them to be fools. When we compare the vastness of the rest of creation to mortal man, to myself individually, I am moved to ask, “Who am I in the eternal and total scheme of things. The Psalm answers that humankind was created and given a dominion that made him a little lower than the angels, yet He in giving dominion over His perfect creation made sure we lacked nothing. While Adam and Eve lost that dominion for all their descendants, God the Son became one of us, retaining His full divinity, in order to begin the process of restoring the image of the Triune God to us now, while exercising His dominion over all of creation with the aim of completing our restoration, and that of all of fallen creation, in the New Heavens and New Earth to come. Jesus Christ earned the right to rule over all through His suffering, death, and resurrection and Ascended to the Father to exercise that dominion through the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is engaged in restoring us now, for the complete restoration to come. In eternal life we will once again have dominion over a creation no longer fallen, but able to sustain us in reflecting His glory, reigning, and ruling with Him forever

### Focus Statement:

I am His precious child, created in Triune God’s image, spoiled by sin, re-created in His image by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, Jesus Christ, who brings the reign and rule of God back to mankind over creation. He assumes it now from the right had of the Father, as I still reflect His image imperfectly. But He promises on the Last Day I will eternally exercise perfect reign and rule dominion over the new heavens and earth

### Function Statement:

#### Why it’s important to know:

When my prayers for healing and recovery are not answered, or when my problems in life are not removed like the next person’s, I might ask with the Psalmist “Who am I that You. O Lord, should take notice of me and my troubles among all the other people?”

#### What the hearer should do as a result:

Realize how important I still am in all of creation, despite my sin, that God the Father would send His Son to restore His image in me, and His Spirit to keep that image alive and growing. Work with the Trinity to spread His reign and rule through the Gospel, with the sure and certain hope of complete restoration to come.

### Subject Sentence: Christ restoring dominion to mankind for eternal life

## **Introduction: Feeling Insignificant and Forgotten**

Have you ever felt insignificant in the grand scheme of things? Maybe when you feel like you've been forgotten about and left to languish in the phone land of "hold"? A while back I was trying to straighten out an issue with my Car Insurance provider regarding the change in the Michigan No Fault law. I was told that if I could have my Health Insurance provider fax over the correct paperwork, proving that they would cover me in the event of an accident, I could save a lot of money with my car insurance. My call to arrange this began on a Friday. I was left on hold for 15 minutes, according to my cell phone which keeps track or the length of the call. I listened to 15 minutes of the sappiest kind of music repeated over and over again. Then all of a sudden, there was a click, the hold music stopped, and 10 seconds of silence, after which my phone registered that the call been disconnected. It took two more tries before I talked with a human being. And then for them to actually fax the correct paperwork, and for my Car Insurance company to verify they received it, took another two weeks of calls and being placed on hold. As I waited on hold a recorded voice told me "my call is very important to them", but in the grand scheme of things I began to wonder.

Of course there are other times in life when you and I might feel forgotten about, such as when you're waiting in the doctor's office and people who arrived after you are called back ahead of you. There are those times in life when you feel more like a number than a human being, like when your doctor comes in to talk with you about a test, or your prognosis, except he seems to be talking at you, but not with you. Those times when he really doesn't stop to listen to what you're asking him. Or when you're talking to the mechanic at the dealership and he's telling you what is wrong with your car but doesn't seem to comprehend you don't have his understanding of automobiles. Or even worse, maybe he does understand and is feeding you a line so that he can get you to agree to more work than is needed.

Then there's the humbling realization that comes when we realize our individual place compared to the complexity and vastness of creation. That feeling you get when you are up north, and look out into the sky, and see all those dots of light, some of them planets, some of them suns or galaxies that are surrounded by untold numbers of planets, stretching out into the vastness of the unending universe. There is also that feeling you can sometimes get when you are praying, and you realize how many other Christians there are that are praying at the same time, all desperately asking for God's help; some of them with seemingly much more important callings or vocations than you, with more immediate needs than you, whose life in your eyes appears to be more faithful than yours.

At times like this its enough to make me say with along with King David (**Psalm 8:4**) **what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?** In other words, **who am I that you are mindful of me and my situation?**

## Who You Are As a Son of Man/Daughter of Eve

What was going through David's mind when he penned this Psalm? Was he looking up into the night sky at an expanse of stars too numerous to count? Perhaps he was looking out at the expanse of the Mediterranean Sea stretched out before him and feeling lost before it. Perhaps he was looking down from one of the tall mountains in Palestine, looking down through the dizzying heights to the valley floor far below. And as he looked at all these things, considered the Creator God who made them all, the One who knows what's on the highest mountains, what is at the depths of the deepest ocean, what is existed beyond the farthest reaches of space. As we consider these things along with David, can we find ourselves asking, "**Who am I, LORD God, that you are mindful of me?**"

And what kind of answer might we find from God? **Psalm 8:5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.** First of all, David points us back to Creation reminding us that we are creatures made by the Triune God. We are creatures purposefully and wonderfully made by all three persons of the Trinity working together at the beginning to make all things good. They carefully, intricately, and purposefully made the light and the darkness, the heavens and all the stars that fill it, the dry land and the seas, and all the plants and animals that fill them. All these things leading up to the final creative act, the pinnacle of creation, that which was made last to emphasize that all that had been made before was for this creature's life and comfort. The last thing created on the 6<sup>th</sup> day that the Triune God made was man and woman: humankind. And did so in His perfect and sinless image, crowning them with the glory that can only come from God alone. He gave them all of His creation for their pleasure and their use as good and faithful managers of His gracious gift. He gave them dominion, the God given right to exercise a grace filled and unselfish reign and rule over all things, one that was for the Creation's continued good, and for all mankind's continued existence, including you and me. And when that was all said and done, the Triune God looked all around and saw that "**It was very good!**"

That was what was in God's mind regarding His human creation. He was so mindful of them that He gave them everything they could ever hope and dream of. And that would still be ours today, except there came the day when all that the Triune God had given them was no longer enough. Adam and Eve wanted to be equal to God in the knowledge of good and evil. And that sinful desire, and their acting upon it, brought this wonderful gift to an end for them, and for us their offspring. Just like them, we often find ourselves not content with what God has given us, including all that we hold in our hands, and our very life itself. In our hearts we know that we were meant for something better, and yearn for that paradise lost, even though what is also lost is just what it was and how wonderful it should be.

## Who Jesus is as The Son of Man

**Psalm 8:4-6** <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,**

As David ponders his place in the Creator's eyes, notice that there is a present tense tone to David's Psalm, if not a future leaning one too. David was writing long after the Fall, but instead of writing in the past tense "**what was man**", he writes "**what is man**". And he didn't write that "**you once made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor**", writing of something that happened long ago but has not been for ages and never will be again. He writes that "**Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor**", almost as if what once was is being restored again. And that is exactly what has happened and is happening through Jesus Christ.

Jesus over and over again called Himself "The Son of Man". One of the reasons He did so was to identify Himself as being the divine Son of God who came down and took on humanity by choosing to be the fruit of Mary's womb and take for Himself a human body, mind, and soul, even as He remained the totally divine Son of God. And even further, in a way that connects all the way back to creation, in Hebrew, which is the language this Psalm is written in, the literally translation of the title Jesus chose for Himself is "**a son of Adam**"

As Paul points out in his Epistles, Jesus came to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam. Where the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam completely tarnished the image of God in humanity, and in doing so completely ruined our ability to have dominion, Jesus as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam has come to restore what was lost: to restore the untarnished and holy image of God in human beings, and with that their ability to once again have dominion over all creation. It's a huge task, beyond what any other man could do. That's why it had to be God Himself who took on humanity completely and perfectly to restore all that had been lost, including Paradise itself.

Jesus did this as the Son of Man who lived out the perfect existence that Adam was created to live but failed to do. It was the same perfect existence, the same perfect life that God calls you and I to live, which we also fail in doing. So Jesus as the Son of Man, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, went to the cross to suffer and die for all the ways we demonstrate that tarnished image of God, all the ways we use Creation for our own personal wants and needs without any thought or consideration for those outside of ourselves, our families, and our fellow countrymen, let alone future generations. He died for all the ways we desire to be equal to God in living our lives without regard for His law and commands. Jesus died to clean the slate, to remove the sinful imperfection, to take it all to the grave and leave it there. Then He rose again to let us know He is the first of the sons of Adam to rise again to a new life, with all sinful imperfection gone. Jesus rose again to show forth the sinless and holy image of the Triune

God in humanity once again. And He gives that gift to you through God the Holy Spirit through the free gift of faith.

Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father from where He rules over all things and has complete control and dominion over all creation right now. And He reigns and rules with this purpose in mind, that you will get to enjoy this gift that He came to give you now and forever, a place in the restored perfection of Creation that is the New Heavens and New Earth.

## **How Important Are You to the Triune God?**

This is how important you are to the Triune God, you-personally, each and every one of you. That gift of the sinless perfection that is the holy image of God is yours right now by faith. Because of Christ's work given to you in your baptism, that is how the Triune God sees you, as the perfectly sinless son of Adam, daughter of Eve, precious child of the Heavenly Father. All your sinful imperfection has been washed away to the cross and gone forever. Now I realize we all still have that broken, sinful 1<sup>st</sup> Adam clinging to life in each one of us. And that sinful part of us shows its ugly head on a daily basis. But you should know that by faith, and the continued presence of the Holy Spirit, we are a work in progress. The Holy Spirit is working in our hearts repentance through the Law by showing us that sinful Adam within us. And then through the Gospel presented in the means of grace, He continues the work of changing us inside and out by killing that old Adam and raising up the new Adam made in the image of the Son of Man who is the Son of God. God the Holy Spirit continues this work of changing us into who Jesus has made us to be by faith. What is only a spiritual reality in your life now, the Spirit is at work in you to make the reality you show back to God and to one another in your thoughts, words, and deeds.

He is at work preparing you for something big, for the glorious future that is to come. Paul talks of this in 2 **Timothy 2:11-12a** <sup>11</sup> **The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him;** <sup>12</sup> **if we endure, we will also reign with him.**

Through our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of Man who is also the Son of God, we die to sin with Him, and are raised to live with Him now and forever. He sends His Holy Spirit so that despite the temptation from outside of us and within us, we will endure in the faith by His mighty work through the means of grace. He works to keep us in repentant faith now, so that on the Last Day we will also reign with Him forever. We will reign with Him, over the restored paradise lost. The Triune God will restore to us, His precious children, that original beauty, along with the peaceful relationship with all the animals, and with each other that he intended for us to live in from the start. He will restore to us dominion over the New Heavens and New Earth. Humankind will return to the place the Triune God created us to have in the beginning: the place we lost because of sin. It's the place that Jesus comes to restore in all who believe in His life, death, and resurrection. And this restored image in us, as well as the restored paradise of the New Heavens and New Earth, and our restored dominion over it, will last forever. You are so important to Him that He came into

your life in baptism so that all this can be yours forever. That's how important you are to Him.

## **Conclusion**

There are plenty of times in this fallen creation that you may feel unimportant and uncared for, certainly by the unbelieving world, but also by your brothers and sisters in Christ who, through that sinful Adam can act a lot like the unbelieving world. And because, as Jesus warns us, in this world you will have troubles, it may at times seem like we are unimportant to God Himself. We may seem insignificant, and our troubles seem insurmountable. So many people and so many problems, and many of those appearing to us to be more important than we are, may move us to wonder ***who am I, that God is mindful of me?*** Well, who you are is a baptized child of God. That means you are one who is declared through faith in Jesus to be restored to right standing with God, to the standing Adam and Eve had before sin. You are one who is having that sinless and holy image of God being renewed daily through the means of grace. And you are one He has chosen to enjoy the restored dominion in the eternal paradise that is the New Heavens and New Earth. Jesus Christ, the Son of Man gave His life and rose again, ascending to the right hand of the Father, and sending the Holy Spirit just to give this gift to you. You are that important to Him. You are on His mind always, He is present watching over You, and He will not let you go. Amen.