

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

03 February 2008

VOLUME 8; ISSUE 05

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What is Man?

by B. G. Echols

Preceptor Vol. 56; # 10, October 2007

Have you ever lifted your eyes to heaven on a cold, winter night and considered the stars? Scattered across the sky by the hundreds, so far beyond our reach, they overwhelm our comprehension of the immensity of space. We are each but a speck in the universe we know without even considering that which is beyond our kin. Like the psalmist who, considering the heavens, was in awe because of man's contradictory position – so small, yet a little lower than God. *“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visit him?”* (Psalm 8:3-4).

Compared to the universe, what is man in size? The importance of man to God is not based on his size. What is man regards to his life span? The great trees of the Pacific coast out live us by centuries. What is man in reference to intelligence? True, he exceeds the capabilities of all the beasts, but must stand in awe of the knowledge possessed by God in the creation of a single grain of sand. What is man in power compared to the wind or the sun? Man can only hide from the forces of nature.

What is man that God is mindful of him? Why should God be concerned about such creatures as we? Why did God make *“him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet”* (Psalms 8:6). Surely we should be humbled. Such humility would help man to solve “the grievous problems that his greed and arrogance have imposed on the world of nature... Man's hasty greed parches the earth and wastes its products...” (Erik Routley, Exploring the Psalms).

Certainly there must be something that sets man upon a different level so that God is concerned with him. The account of creation supplies the answer. *“And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him...”* (Genesis 1:27). Man

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

This past Thursday **Pam Husak** had a root canal procedure and outpatient surgery all on the same day. She is doing well and recovering.

Patricia Robertson had her gall bladder removed Wednesday morning and is home recovering.

Quincy Adams spent seven days in the hospital and received five units of blood before finally being released on Tuesday.

Robert Noris went to the emergency room this past Wednesday but was able to return home the same day.

Please remember **Nina Gray** in your prayers as she continues with her health struggles. Nina has broken her toe and is having a hard time getting around.

We will continue our series of lessons on the book of **Deuteronomy** this evening. Please read chapters 27-28.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

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696-1030 (Home)

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is “the image and glory of God” (I Cor. 11:7). To bear the image of God puts man in a different category: lizards and chimpanzees; asters and tulips; whales and tadpoles. We are the recipients of God’s concern despite our sins. *“For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23). “The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works; There is none that doeth good. Jehovah looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek after God. They are all gone aside; they are together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Psalm 14:1-3). Made in the image of God, it seems natural that we would want to relate to Him. Since He created us, it seems just as natural that He would want to be related to us. Yet with all His power and intelligence, man persists in snubbing God’s wishes, violating His precepts, and scorning His love. Only His grace can explain why God hasn’t already turned the world into ashes. Instead, He “is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9). He wants man to repent (change his mind) from selfish pursuits to humble obedience to His will so He can justly forgive us. His love is so obvious and so drawing in its power it takes the hardest hearts to ignore its pull and resist its appeal. Still “God commends his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

What is man? He is a creature made in God’s image, object of His love, and potential recipient of His forgiveness. IN the celestial realms of His being, God looks in love for you to give up your stubborn way and spiritually profitless wanderings for a place in His spiritual kingdom. Believe in Him and His Son, Jesus Christ (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Luke 13:3), and be baptized into Christ to become a child of God (Galatians 3:27).

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“Is not my word like a fire? Saith Jehovah: and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith Jehovah, that steal my words every one from his neighbor”

Jeremiah 23:29-30

Heart, Passion, Desire

Introduction:

Greg Brown, a fellow teammate of mine as SFA, was known to say, “You gots to want it” in relation to being a champion 800 meter runner. To be a champion takes “heart.” It’s not hard to spot the kids who have heart on a basketball court, track, baseball diamond, or the gridiron. They are the kids who refuse to loose. They will be the ones who have a look that defines their inner being. They will be seen diving for balls, picking themselves up quickly to get back into a play, and frustrated when they fail. These kids play at a different level than most other kids. They are the ones who no one has to beg to practice. They will fall asleep on the courts because they have a passion for the game. We can certainly learn something from these young ones at a time of the year when sports are on every one’s mind (i.e., the Super Bowl). Some Christians illustrate the same passionate spirit in their service to God because they recognize this to be His will (Deut. 28:47). Make no mistake about it, God looks upon our service and he can easily determine who has heart, passion, and desire (see Jer. 23:23-24).

I. Bible Examples of Heart, Passion, and Desire:

- A. Joshua (Josh. 24:14-15)
- B. David (I Sam. 17:26, 45-49)
- C. Solomon (I Kings 3:5ff)
- D. Job (Job 1:20-22)
- E. Peter (Matt. 26:35)

II. What Gave these men this Heart, Passion, and Desire?

- A. Are we destined to be failures? Have you noticed that some in the church seem to grow faster, refuse to quit, and seem to “play at a different level than other church members?” You have seen them fail at giving an invitation, leading singing, or a prayer (i.e., wasn’t all that great). But you will never see them give up. Through the years they just get better and better. They are winners. How can you and I develop this never give up, never get discouraged, and never quit mentality?
- B. The above mentioned Bible men were passionate and filled with desire in matters of faith because **they believed in the reality of God:**
 - 1. They believe that there is no other to give answer to in matters of faith (Isa. 46:9-10).
 - 2. They believe that God created the heavens and the earth (Isa. 45:18).
 - 3. They believe with all their heart that it is the height of foolishness to reject the Lord (Ps. 14:1; Isa. 44:6-8).
- C. Faithful and passionate men and women who exhibit heart and desire are those who have come to believe in the reality of God’s promises (Acts 2:38; 13:23; Eph. 1:7; Gal. 3:13-14; II Pet. 3:9; etc.).

III. Passionate faithful people who have heart are those who will evidence their faith by their obedient actions (Jn. 3:36; Heb. 11:1; James 2:18):

- A. You will find these people to be honestly converted because they are interested in the issues of life (Paul [Acts 22:3-16; 26:3-16], The Ethiopian Eunuch [Acts 8:28, 34], Cornelius [Acts 10:1-2], Lydia [Acts 16:14])
- B. You will see these people fail spiritually but you will not see them give up (II Cor. 4:16).
- C. You will see these people DEEPLY bothered by their sin (Joel 2:12-13; II Cor. 7:9).
- D. You will see these people giving spirituality their all (II Tim 2:15).

Conclusion:

One of the most difficult things to do is to keep the full court press on through out our life. At times our intensity wanes. We are not as bold and willing to fight as we should be at all times. We find ourselves not prepared for Bible studies, personal studies, and it just seems that every little thing that happens or is said discourages us. Brethren, its time to stop whining and making excuses as to why we are not here on Sunday, why we don’t have Bible lessons prepared, and why we don’t like so and so. Convicted people do not let anyone or any event drag them down (Hag. 1:7; 2:4; Heb. 10:32-39). These people never give up because they have heart, passion, and desire to make it to heaven and they will be the only one’s there (II Tim. 4:7).