

070818

I. My Notes... WWC message 070818

II. Series... A Summer of Psalms

a. Title: Consider This...

b. Text: Psalm 8: 1-9 NCV

c. Quote: "Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all." Augustine

III. Introduction

a. I remember lying under the skies looking at the clouds with my brothers and friends... Our imaginations would run away with all the incredible sights. And one of my favorites places is the desert at night – the clear and unobstructed view of the stars, planets, and all that is in the sky is captivating. Seeing things happen in the sky is wondrous – it frequently causes me to ponder the power and abilities of the Lord God. Have you watched an electrical storm from a distance? To see the lightning strikes and the clouds gather... it is a powerful instance. I'm sure you get the idea. In Psalm 19, David says, "the heavens are telling of the glory of God" (vs. 1, NASB). Romans 1:20, "For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." (NLT2). We can see the power and majesty of the Lord by just opening our eyes and looking at the wonder of creation. Knowing that God spoke all the universe into existence causes me to be in awe of each day.

b. While researching information for today, I came across a sermon by Stephen Kellet from the Christian Missionary Alliance. I want to read part of it to you.

"Sitting in her car - on a dark road just outside of town, a young high school girl looks at her life. This is what she sees: 'I am overweight; I have no friends;

My future holds no promise". As she slides the bullet in the chamber of her father's 38 revolver, she thinks; "It's no use - there is no hope."

A middle-aged executive sits alone in a motel room, a day of meetings just completed. He thinks about his life; 'The kids are all gone; My wife doesn't seem to care or love me anymore; My job is a dead-end'. As he reaches for the phone book to look up the number of a local escort service, he thinks to himself, "Maybe, at least, I can have a couple hours of pleasure."

A housewife sits at home, alone. As she sits there, she looks at her life: 'My husband has his job; The kids are all in school; I am so alone'. As she pours herself another drink, she thinks to herself-, "Thank God I have my soaps . . .

And so it goes. Every day, we hear about it, or read about it. People are checking out on life.

"Children running away from home; Someone committing suicide; Alcoholism; Drug Addiction; Divorce; Adultery; and depression"

And as this is going on, we have to ask ourselves; Why? Why are people checking out on life? The answer to that question is as varied as the people themselves. However, if you were to analyze the answers, there would be one consistent. All of the answers would reveal that most of these people have found that their life, or at least an important aspect of their life is meaningless - it is empty - it is unfulfilling. It's as if there is a dark hole that they are living in, and they can't get out.

It is a feeling that many of us can relate to. In fact, there may be somebody here this morning listening to this message right now, and within your own heart, you feel that way about your life, even as we speak. You understand the idea of emptiness, meaninglessness, and being unfulfilled."

Now, it may not be your entire life, it could just be a very important aspect of your life. Maybe it's your career, or your family, or your marriage, or maybe it's a relationship with your children or with your parents. It seems as if no matter

what you do, you still feel the emptiness, the hopelessness of the entire situation.

Well let me tell you something this morning, there is hope. Your life can be meaningful and fulfilling. So, can be your career, your marriage, and your relationships. Whatever it is in your life, that feels empty - can be fulfilling. Take your Bibles and turn with me to the very first chapter of the very first book the Book of Genesis. It may surprise you to find out that the promise of that hope can be found right here in the first chapter of Genesis.

This is the chapter that reveals to us our beginnings. It tells the story of God creating the universe, the earth, and mankind. I will admit that this chapter has taken a lot of abuse over the past several years. The fact of the matter is science has gone a long way to prove that everything had a beginning. Most of science has also gone a long way in trying to explain those beginnings without God.

But, all you have to do is look at the beauty, the synchronization and the organization of the universe to know that an intelligent, loving and creative God was behind it.

It occurs to me that mankind has set off literally billions of explosions. But only those that are carefully planned by pyrotechnic engineers can be said to be beautiful and creative. And yet we are told that all of the beauty of creation began with a giant and unplanned explosion. How many of us have sat and watched an incredible 4th of July display fireworks display? Or how many of us were amazed at the wonderful celebrations around the world as we ushered in the new millennium? Wonderfully designed and choreographed displays of fireworks everywhere. Each one of those was a small explosion. The only way that those marvelous scenes can be created is by someone sitting down and thinking them out. Unless they are planned and supervised, an explosion leaves nothing but chaos.

We can sit outside on any clear night and gaze at the stars and wonder all we want about them and where they came from, or we can open the Bible and read the first sentence and meet the engineer who designed and created them. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

I am not here this morning to argue about the truth of this first passage. I am not going to try to persuade you of its truth. To me it is a wonderful statement of faith and must be accepted that way. When you do accept it, the world takes on a special beauty as you begin to discover the God who loved us so much that he would create such a marvelous place for us to live."

- c. While our text is not in Genesis today, it is amazing to see that from the beginning the Lord God's creation has inspired hope and given us reasons to see that we are loved and valued. Let's look at a reminder from someone else

IV. Text

a. Psalm 8:1-9 (NCV)

For the director of music. On the gittith. A psalm of David.

LORD our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth! It brings you praise in heaven above.

You have taught children and babies to sing praises to you because of your enemies. And so you silence your enemies and destroy those who try to get even.

I look at your heavens, which you made with your fingers. I see the moon and stars, which you created.

But why are people important to you? Why do you take care of human beings?

You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

You put them in charge of everything you made. You put all things under their control: all the sheep, the cattle, and the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that lives under water.

LORD our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth!

- b. Let's brief consider a few points that should encourage us and let us know how loved and valuable we are to the Lord

V. His Name is Majestic

- a. Right from the beginning of this Psalm, David declares the wondrous nature of the Lords name
- b. Let's look at some of the names He has been called
- c. Elohim – Gen. 1... the Strong, Powerful One
- d. Yahweh – Gen. 2... God's personal name (Greek, Jehovah)
- e. Adonai – Gen. 15... Master, Ruler
- f. Jesus helped us see that we can approach God in a personal manner. He taught us to address God as, "Our Father" (Mt. 6:9). The Apostle Paul taught us... the Holy Spirit instructs us to cry out to God with the term "Abba, Father" (Ro. 8:15; Gal. 4:6). We can certainly hold a different perspective due to the time we live and the blessings we have seen. We live today seeing more and more of the Lord God's revelation of love and grace to us. The Jews were under the Old Covenant, and they knew God as Yahweh (Jehovah). Being under the Covenant of Grace, the New Covenant the Lord made to us through His Disciples, can know Him more intimately. We can call Him Father
- g. David said, His power and glory has been declared to all the Earth, His glory exceeds all of creation – it is higher than anything, and it is revealed in the "children" – those who need Him and are willing to serve Him

- h. Jesus told us that we must become like children to enter the kingdom of Heaven (see Matt. 18). We must love in a pure and complete way, we must give our all, and seek a total relationship with Him
- i. That honors God and declares His glory (majesty, wonder) to all that are watching us

VI. God Cares about Us

- a. God loves us completely... Have you heard that before? 😊
- b. We are valuable because of God's love for us
- c. Think about this... The Creator of Everything, the One who deserves all the praise and honor, is "mindful" of us.
- d. He thinks about us, remembers and considers us in everything He does
- e. He demonstrates love for us intentionally
- f. He wants an eternal relationship with all men... Titus 2:11 (CSB) – "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people"
- g. God's complete expression of love, toward us, is reality. It is observable in creation. It was seen in the life and ministry of Jesus
- h. There are times we may feel insignificant – yet the Lord thinks about ways to show us love and mercy
- i. There are times when we may feel alone – yet the Lord strengthens and encourages us... He finds ways to protect us from the attacks and onslaughts of those who would hurt us
- j. Just a note about clarity in this passage... it may help with perspective
- k. Vs. 5 states "You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor." Most versions translate in a similar fashion

- l. The Hebrew term for angels here is “Elohim” Heard that anywhere before?
- m. That is how much we are loved and cared for... we are loved and valued more than any other part of creation
- n. Even in our failures, we have worth... In our disobedience, there is grace and understanding... When I am lost, there is direction – when I am confused, there are answers

VII. Our Task – Give Him Praise

- a. David stated it in this Psalm... Lord, your Name is the best
- b. In Psalm 86 David reiterated, “All the nations you have made will come and bow down before you, Lord, and will honor your name.” (ref. 86:9)
- c. Paul told the saints of the NT... “so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.” (Ephesians 1:12 CSB)
- d. We must learn to live in awe again
- e. We have become so immune to amazing things, there is little sense of wonder or admiration anymore
- f. God's love and acceptance are amazing... this alone is worth us declaring the goodness of His name

VIII. Final Words

- a. A farmer took a piece of bad earth and made things flourish thereon. Proud of his accomplishments, he asked his minister to come by and see what he had done. The minister was impressed. “That's the tallest corn I've ever seen. I've never seen anything as big as those melons. Praise the Lord!” He went on that way about every crop, praising the Lord for it all.

Finally, the farmer couldn't take it anymore. "Reverend," he said, "I wish you could have seen this place when the Lord was doing it by himself." (taken from a speech by Ronald Regan)

- b. Are we going to live more like the farmer or the king (David)?
- c. Let's Pray
- d. On your journey, may you consistently find that amazing things the Lord has created and done for you. May you see His love and compassion every step along your path. And may you find ways to praise Him in all aspects of your daily walk.