

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 10/16/2011

Title: "How Majestic!"

Text: Psalm 8

Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study in the Psalms" (Ps. 62:8)

Preacher: Ryan Kelly

1. God's Majesty and Might in Creation (1-3)

- Romans 1:19-25; Psalm 19:1-4; Matthew 21:14-16
- God has displayed his majesty and might in all the earth, beyond the heavens, and in little babies.
- "Babes and sucklings are advocates sufficiently powerful to vindicate the providence of God. [they are] ...witnesses and preachers of God's glory. [they are] ...invincible champions of God who, when it comes to the conflict, can easily scatter and discomfit the whole host of the wicked. [they are] ...imposed with the office of defending the glory of God." -John Calvin

2. God's Condescension and Care for Humanity (4)

- Notice the contrast between v3 and v4.
- "If you spend your life in front of a mirror, you'd think it's a given that God cares for you. He has to. If you spent a minute looking out a window in the space station, you'd quickly join David in amazement at God's care for humanity." - Ryan Kelly

3. God's Delegation of Dominion to Us (5-8)

- Genesis 1:26, 28
- There are many ways in which we are not like God. But there are many ways in which we are like God:
1) Relational (to God and spouse), 2) Spiritual (able and designed to be directed to God), 3) Managing (Manages, Rules, Provides, Cares for Creation as God's Vice-Regent), 4) Creating (ascetics and rationality) - badgers build dams but don't have an eye for beauty.
- "Crowned" is kingly language. We have kingly glory, but our glory is derived from God.

4. God's Glory and Goodness in the Rest of the Story

- Psalm 8 doesn't seem to describe humanity in its fallen state. As with any text, we want to go backwards from Psalm 8 to the beginning of our Bibles, and then forwards to see where the story goes.

Psalm 8 gone awry in the fall

- Genesis 3. One way to understand sin is that the "delegation of dominion" has gone wrong. Humanity's relationship to the world does not look like what Psalm 8 describes.

Psalm 8 restored in the perfect man

- 1 Corinthians 15:25-27; Hebrews 2:6-10. What Psalm 8 describes was distorted in the fall. Jesus is the true human, the true king, executing perfect dominion over the earth in perfect relationship to God.

Sample Questions:

- Considering God's Majesty: How does David explain the majesty of God? What's surprising here? When have you had the kind of feeling David is having here (God's majesty, our smallness)? Why doesn't God believe in atheists?
- Considering Human Dignity and Sin: With Genesis 1-2 as background to this Psalm, in what ways are human beings like and not like God? What does Psalm 8 highlight about humanity and how does this view of humanity bear on our view of our purpose? How does Christianity dignify the human race? (Humans are at the same time small and yet utterly important, invested with great nobility and responsibility by the Creator). How does Psalm 8 help us clarify the problem of sin?
- Considering Christ: Psalm 8 is a very positive view of humanity, but David knows better, and so do we. What other places in Scripture help complete the picture of humanity? What do these verses tell us about what Christ accomplished in his life, death, and resurrection?