

The Question Man Asks God

By Paul B. Blake (Sr.)

Any Christian at one time or another has asked this question of God: "What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?" (Psalm 8:4) Why does God take thought of us? We can't begin to imagine how great God really is. With our human minds we can't think or understand how great God is because our minds are limited, and God's greatness is not. But to answer this question, God revealed His greatness in the scriptures.

Read Genesis chapters one through three. In chapter one, God created heaven and earth, light and day, divided the water from the land, made fruit trees, fish, living creatures, creeping things, birds that fly in the air. And then God made man; His final creation; His greatest creation. (Gen. 1:26-31)

1) God said, "Let Us make man in Our image." Of all of God's creatures, He never said of anything else, that He created it in "Our image."

2) God never said to anything else He created that it was to have dominion over His creation. God gave man this honor.

3) God took man and placed him in a special place He made especially for the man, the Garden of Eden. Did God make a special place for anything else He created, fowls, fish, or animals? God planted this garden for man.

4) God breathed into man the breath of life. Does the Bible say that God breathed the breath of life into any other creature?

5) God made every tree to grow out of the ground in the garden that was pleasant to look at and good for food, so that man would have something to eat and could look at the beauty of it. Did God give the animals an appreciation for beauty?

6) God knew man would need water, so He made four rivers to run through the Garden of Eden to give water to the man and the garden.

7) God also put the tree of knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life in the garden. Did God put these trees into the care of any other creature besides man?

8) God allowed man to name all of His creation. So Adam gave names to all of the cattle, birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. What an honor for man! This was not given to any other creature.

9) God talked with Adam. How great this was to talk with God the Creator! Christians can talk to God in prayer, and God talks to us in His word. What other creature or creeping thing has this honor?

And then man sinned by doing what God told him not to do. He ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. So God drive him out of the garden to keep him from eating from the tree of life. Was God done with man? God is not like us. We might say, "You done me wrong, so I am done with you." So why did God still try to save man? Because He loves us (John 3:16). We are His greatest creation, created in His image, given His breath of life. God loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son. If we love Him and keep His commandments, we will one day have a home with Him. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). Man can get back to the Garden of Eden of Heaven if he keeps God's will until death. After the Judgment Day, he can enter in.

God never intended for man to go into heaven in his flesh, for flesh and blood cannot enter heaven. Man was made to live on the earth. When he leaves the earth, he has to take air, food, and water from the earth in order to live, because man was made from the dust of this earth. So when the earth is destroyed in the Judgment, all earthly things and creatures and bodies of men will be destroyed with it. But the spirit of man will return to God. Man's body was made of dust and to dust it will return. Our hope in Christ is based on God's love for us. God is

not willing that any should perish. If we perish, it is our choice, not God's will. He gave us a way to escape.

When we make something ourselves, we are proud of it. It may mean nothing to someone else, but it is valuable to us. So it is with God and man. Whether or not man appreciates it, God is pleased with His creation and He values mankind.

Hatfields and McCoys

"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD" (Lev. 19:18).

It was on the front pages of newspapers in 1880's, when the Hatfield clan of Virginia feuded with the McCoy clan from across the border in Kentucky. Historians disagree on the cause of the feud which captured the imagination of the nation during a 10-year run. Some say the feud originated from the Civil War tensions: the McCoys sympathized with the Union, the Hatfields with the Confederacy. Others say it began when the McCoys blamed the Hatfields for stealing hogs. As many as 100 men, women and children died. In May 1976, Jim McCoy and Willis Hatfield, the last two survivors of the original families, shook hands at a public ceremony dedicating a monument to six of the victims. Jim McCoy died Feb. 11, 1984, at age 99. He bore no grudges, and had his burial handled by the Hatfield Funeral Home in Toler, KY.

James 5:9 says, "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door."

Original Self-Help Book

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:7-10).

Several years ago, the Associated Press made an interesting concession. After evaluating 4,000 self-help books, they concluded that the oldest and best of the "how to's" on happiness and contentment are in the original self-help book, the Bible. (Associated Press, Sept. 14, 1992) "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1Peter 2:2).

Yesterday, Tomorrow, & Today

We cannot change yesterday,
That is quite clear:
Nor begin tomorrow
Until it is here.
So all that is left
For you and for me
Is to make today
As sweet as can be.

Help Us to Help

Help us to help each other Lord
Each other's cross to bear;

Let each his friendly aid afford
And feel his brother's care
Help us to build each other up
Our little stock improve;
Increase our faith, confirm our hope
And perfect us in love.