

I. Intro: Psalm 8

- A. A psalm that describes created order, undisturbed by sin
- B. The God of Israel is the Creator of the universe
- C. Creation shows that God is supreme in splendor and majesty
- D. Mankind is insignificant in comparison to the splendor of the heavens
- E. God made mankind unique in dignity and authority – in his own image

II. This is the *beginning* of the story: what will happen next?

- A. The created order is good, but it is full of potential (there are two trees)
- B. On the one hand, loss, death, and defacement (Psalm 8:2)
- C. On the other hand, completion, fulfillment and glory (Hebrews 4:9-11; Revelation 3:5; 21:2,9-27; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3)

III. What does biblical salvation look like? (a 5<sup>th</sup> century debate)

- A. Pelagius
- B. Augustine
- C. What does this have to do with eschatology?

IV. We do see Jesus: Hebrews 2:5-9

- A. Hebrews 2 sees a problem with Psalm 8: “We do yet see all things subject to him.”
- B. But we do see Jesus (Romans 8:19-23)
- C. Jesus came both to offer forgiveness and to gain for mankind the glory and honor which he was meant to receive.

V. The human hope: the rule of God

- A. Jesus lived, died, rose, and ascended.
- B. Jesus will return again, to judge the living and the dead.
- C. The dead will be raised and stand before God and give account.
- D. Those who have embraced the grace of God will enter into his joy and rest.
- E. Those who have not will go to unending punishment.
- F. We will no longer be a little lower than the angels. (1 Corinthians 6:1-3)
- G. The kingdom of God is the restoration and fulfillment and perfection of created order. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

VI. Application (such as it is)

- A. Be prepared to follow Christ through suffering
- B. When you wonder if all this is worthwhile, remember that the goal is much greater.
- C. Value the created order, and its limitations
- D. Aim for obedience in the situations and relationships God has put you in
- E. Follow the simple instruction of Jesus (Luke 17:20-24)