

What is Man?

Evangelist Calvin Evans



Psalm 8:4 asks this question? *“What is man that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?”* Then, Psalm 8:5 and 6 answers the question, *“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.”*

What is man? Who am I? Did that question ever go across your mind? You see, we can be a lot of things. I am a husband. I am a preacher. I am also a grandfather. You see we are different things to different people. The important question is, “Who am I in relationship to God? Who am I — as God sees me?”

We are living in a time of identity crisis. People never really take a look at themselves to see who they are or what they are. We have more or less become lost in the numbers.

I have recently been talking to some computer people. It is mind-bobbling to think of what computers are able to do. We have almost lost our personal identity and are rapidly becoming mere numbers. We are a zip code number to our postman. We are a social security

number to the IRS. If we are admitted into the hospital, we become a room number. You are a clock number at the plant where you work. On and on I could go. But I want to say to you today that, in the eyes of God, you are not a number but you are an individual separate, different, and unlike any other of the over six billion persons presently living on this earth. You are unique and you are different from every other person because God made you that way.

Moses, the great leader, said, *“Who am I”* (Exodus 3:11)? Sometimes, when we look at ourselves, we ponder for an answer. Several years ago, President Johnson’s daughter married into the Catholic Church and someone asked her why she did this. She replied, “I am trying to find myself. I don’t know who I am. I am

trying to find a purpose in life. I thought this may be the answer.” When I heard about this, I thought, how many people are just like that. Here was the daughter of the most powerful man (at the time) on the face of the earth saying, “Who am I? I am trying to find myself. Where did I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here?” We will never have peace of mind on our journey to eternity until we can answer these questions.

Man Is A Created Being

First of all, the Bible says you are a created being, I believe we came from God. I simply cannot agree with the evolutionist’s theory that through some argument of Theistic Evolution, based on such fundamentals as Comparative Anatomy, Embryonic Recapitulation and Anthropology, man evolved from some minute living organic cell. I simply believe that in the beginning God made it all.

I agree with Dr. Lockridge, when he said, “God came from nowhere because there was nowhere for Him to come from. And coming from nowhere, He stood upon nothing because there was

nowhere for Him to stand. And standing on nothing, He reached out where there was no where to reach, and caught something where there was nothing to catch, and hung something upon nothing and told it to stay there.” God made it all! I may not understand it, but I believe it.

I believe God made it all and that He made man in His own image. Therefore, we are a created being. The Bible says, *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* (Genesis 2:7). So man was created by God. Notice David said that man is different from every other creature in this world. You see, there is nothing else like man. We need to realize that today. The Bible says God gave man dominion over everything else that He had made (Psalm 8:6).

I read somewhere not long ago of a young college student who was an “A” student in his class. His grandmother died and he went home for the funeral. When he returned to college, his grades started going down. The school thought it was due to the sudden loss of his grandmother and in a week or two he would be back to normal, but his grades kept slipping. Finally, his guidance counselor talked to him and asked him what was wrong. Confiding in his counselor, he said, “While I was at my grandmother’s funeral, I happened to open the Bible and I found out that I am adopted. I found out that my parents are not my real parents. I don’t even know whom I belong to or I don’t even know where I came from.” It bothered him. My friend, I want to say to you today, I don’t care what your name is, nor what your background may be, you can know where you came from and you can know where you are going, by the grace of God. Man is a created being.

Man Is An Eternal Being

Remember, when God made man, He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. That makes you, not only a created being, but that also makes you an eternal being. You are going to be living somewhere one billion years from today. Did you

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know that if you could count 100 numbers per minute and started counting now, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year, it would take you nearly 20 years just to count to one billion? Did you ever think about the fact you will be living somewhere one billion years from now? You will be living because you are a living soul.

Now you are not a body with a soul. You do not have a soul. You are a soul. You are a soul with a body. Your body will go back to the dust of the ground. The Bible calls it “putting off this tabernacle” or the “dissolving of this earthly house.” But, you have a soul which will live on forever and ever.

That is why Jesus said, “*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul . . .*” (Matthew 16:26)? What would it profit you if you gained all of the stars, the sun, the moon, all of the gold in Fort Knox, all of the stocks on the stock market, all of the oil in Iran and the rest of the Middle East, every railroad enterprise, the great Chase Manhattan Bank and all the other banks, what would it profit you, if you had it all and lost your soul? Jesus said, “*What shall a man give in exchange for his soul*” (Matthew 16:26)? Men strive, quest, and kill one another, cheat, steal and lie just to get a little more of this world. Jesus said, if you had it all what good would it do you?

King Solomon was the richest man who ever lived. I read somewhere that King Solomon was so rich that he could have hired Donald Trump for his chauffeur. He could have hired Ross Perot for his errand boy and Bill Gates to mow his lawn. He said, when he had looked at it all, “It is all vanity and vexation.” What good is it? You see, God made you an eternal being. It doesn’t matter how much of this world you may own, it won’t do you any good. Because death is going to knock on your door just the same as it does on the door of everyone else.

Oh God, may we realize today, when we think of this question, “What is man?” that we’ll always remember he is an eternal being. Too many people put the emphasis on the physical rather than the eternal. You see, when we think of ourselves as a body with a soul, we get

our priorities in the wrong place.

The “physical you” is not worth very much. I read somewhere that the human body has:

Enough fat to make seven bars of soap
Enough sugar to sweeten
seven cups of tea
Enough lime to whitewash a
chicken coop
Enough sulfur to make 2,000 matches
or to rid a dog of fleas.
Enough water to take a skimpy bath

Today the emphasis is put on the physical rather than the spiritual. You may eat the right food. You may exercise religiously. You may do 100 other things to keep your physical body young and healthy. But whatever you do, this body is only worth about \$1.98, possibly \$5 or \$6 dollars in this time of inflation. But, as a living soul, you are worth more than this whole world.

Notice Jesus didn’t ask, “What shall a man ‘take’ but what will a man ‘give’ in exchange for his soul.” Judas sold out for 30 pieces of silver. Esau sold out for a mess of pottage. What are you selling out for? People sell themselves cheap. They sell their souls cheap. But Jesus said, “What would you give, after death comes and after you go out to meet God, in exchange for your soul?” You would give anything this world holds if you could have one more opportunity to be saved. You would give everything if you could hear the Gospel preached one more time. To feel that lump in your throat and God whispering in your ear, “You need to come home.” You see, the hungry soul can never be happy and satisfied just eating from the pleasures and drinking from the cisterns of this world. Nothing in this world can satisfy the hungry soul of man, for the eternal being. Only Jesus can satisfy. Trust Him and claim Him today.

Man Is A Sinful Being

A newspaper editor was seeking for a headline for his paper. The news kept coming in, growing from bad to worse. A congressman was convicted of bribery and conspiracy, the battle continued to rage in Iraq and Afghanistan, there was a

bank robbery, a jail break, dope in the school, and other similar events. The news was so bad the editor finally gave up in disgust and the next morning, when the newspaper came out, the headline blazed these words: “World In An Awful Mess.” Wasn’t this as good as any he could have chosen?

Why is the world in an awful mess? Why is it we can swim like a fish in our sophisticated submarines, fly like a bird to distant planets, but we cannot live with each other here on earth? Why is it we can walk on the moon but it is not safe to walk on the streets of our city, nor any other city? We don’t have to look very far to know there is something wrong with man. The results of sin can be seen everywhere. The Bible tells us why, “*By one man (Adam) sin entered into the world*” (Romans 5:12). Sin has plagued this old world ever since it made its appearance through Adam. This world is in a mess because man is a sinful being. “*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23).

Man Is A Lost Being

As a consequence of sin, man is a lost being. Jesus Christ came from the portals of glory to this sin-cursed, war-torn world to save man because he is lost. The Apostle Paul said, “*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*” (I Timothy 1:15). We are lost beings. When the Word of God begins to talk to our lost condition, it likens us unto sheep. “*All we like sheep have gone astray*” (Isaiah 53:6). Why did God compare us to sheep? Why didn’t He say, “All we like dogs have gone astray? All we like chickens have gone astray?” Why did He use sheep? I’ll tell you why. You see, when a sheep loses its way, it does not have the ability or instinct to find its way home on its own. It separates itself from the flock, but is unable to find its way back. It can only see about 15 yards and has no ability whatsoever to return home. The reason He didn’t say a dog, you can take a dog 100 miles away from home and drop it off and it will almost beat you back to the house.

I read not long ago where a person either in Michigan or Minnesota took a cat on an airplane to California, nearly 2,000 miles and after weeks, the cat found its way back home. You see, some animals have a God-given instinct. Chickens come home to roost. Cows come home at milk time, but sheep do not come home. To picture man's lost condition, God likens him unto a sheep.

Man Is A Blinded Being

Also as a consequence of sin, man is a blinded being. Blinded by Satan who is god of this world, (II Corinthians 4:4). The reason some of you are not Christians is because the devil has you blinded. If you knew what tomorrow held, if you could see around the next curve of the road, if you knew what was going to happen in your life next week, tomorrow, possibly some of you within the next hour, I wouldn't need to preach my lungs out. You would be coming to me saying, "Preacher, tell me how to get saved." Our churches would be packed, filled and running over.

Because man is blinded, he goes on in his blindness. That is the reason Jesus, I think, touched so many blinded eyes while He was here. To show us how man can be blinded not only physically, but he can be blinded spiritually as well. Spiritual blindness is much worse than physical blindness. There is a spiritual dimension of man, to which he is blind, until and unless he receives a spiritual birth. This is the reason we need to be born again (John 3:3). The natural man cannot receive and understand the things of God (I Corinthians 2:14).

Many of our TV programs are being taped on the scene of our crusades. The cameramen take the pictures, edit them, then they are forwarded to the station and "aired" at the time of our program. However, for you to see it, you must first "tune in." It is there and available whether you are tuned in or not. So it is with God! He is omnipresent. He is everywhere at once. But many are not aware of His presence, because they are simply not tuned in. The new birth tunes us in to this spiritual world. We only have a spiritual birth when we come to Jesus, turn from our sins, or repent of our

sins, trust Him and take Him by faith. There is no greater thrill than having an eternal purpose for living, to know where you are; to know where you've been; and to know where you are going, by the grace of God. Hallelujah! There is nothing like it. Glory to God! It is real today! Do you know Him as your Savior? Man is a blinded being and he needs his eyes open.

Man Is A Religious Being

This may sound like a strange statement, but man must be religious. This world does not satisfy him, so he must worship something. This is part of his nature. Man may worship an idol. Man may worship the rising sun. Many people worship animals. Some think their ancestors have come back to this earth in the form of an animal. You may go into the heart of an illiterate society today and yet you find man worshipping something. It may be something he puts on a pole. It may be the rising sun, but he worships something.

The Apostle Paul preached in the city of Athens where the great learned philosophers had lived. I don't know that we ever had another Aristotle, Socrates, or Plato. All of these great philosophers had lived before Paul's day, worshipping all kinds of philosophies, from the Epicurian to the Stoic Philosophy. We are told the Greeks had 30,000 different gods. Yet, when Paul arrived in this city of learning and culture with all their different philosophies, religions and gods, he found yet another altar erected to the unknown god. Why? Because man is a religious being and will worship something. But religion will not take you to Heaven. You can be religious and be lost.

I have mentioned the incident many times in the 44th chapter of Isaiah where he pictures a man that went out and started cutting the trees. He was an idol worshipper. He cut down part of the wood and built a fire to keep himself warm. He took another part of the wood and cooked himself a meal to satisfy his hungry appetite. Then the Bible says, he took the residue (or that which was left over) and made himself a god. You see, man has to worship something. But

man-made religions of this world will not satisfy the hungry soul. You cannot satisfy the soul with a bottle, with a dope needle, or by losing yourself in lust. That is why Isaiah said, "*Why do you labor for that which satisfieth not*" (Isaiah 55:2). Why do you labor, eat, worry and work for those things that will not bring satisfaction. God said, "*...eat that which is good, and let yourself delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, come unto me, hear and your soul shall live;*" (Isaiah 55:2-3). Thank God, I am glad that we can eat of the bread from Heaven today that will satisfy our hungry soul.

I tried to live by bread alone; the bread of earthly store; but in my grasp it turned to stone; and I hungered more and more. Then I came to Christ the Living Bread, and in hungry need I cried, I feasted from His table spread and now I'm satisfied. Hallelujah! You can get a meal at God's table today. You can be satisfied.

Man Can Be A New Being

You don't have to carry that load of sin. You don't have to carry that load of doubt. You can be made anew (II Corinthians 5:17).

In chapter 18 of Jeremiah, he tells a beautiful story of going down to the potter's house to see him as he wrought a work on the wheels. The clay vessel became marred in the potter's hand so he made it again, another vessel. In the Holy Land a few year's ago, our group visited a potter's house like Jeremiah was talking about. It seemed so easy when the potter would take the clay, put it on the potter's wheel, mold and fashion it into a vessel. We had a lady in our group that said, "That looks easy, I can do that." The potter replied, "All right, try it." In about a second she had marred the vessel and it was all out-of-shape. The potter then remade it from the clay. God made us in His image. But through sin we became marred and all out of shape. Man's mind became twisted and distorted because of sin. But Jeremiah said then the potter made it again. Hallelujah! He made it again!

The night I got saved I looked the same on the outside but I have never been the same on the inside. Old things

are passed away. I was made anew. I was playing four nights a week with a band in a nightclub and they said, "He'll be back next Saturday night." That has been over 50 years ago and I have never been back. Somebody said, "Preacher when you got saved, did you quit drinking?" I said, "No, I just changed fountains." They said, "Did you quit singing?" I replied, "No, I just changed songs." I am going to change my song just one more time. When I get over there I'm going to sing a new one. I'm not going to sing about laying down my

burdens, I'm not going to sing about my sorrows. I'm not going to be singing about my trials. When I get home, I am going to sing the song of victory. Then, I'm going to look back down the hill at the broken promises, the doubts, the heartaches and the failures I have come through. Then, I'm going to look in the face of Jesus and thank Him for that dark night, when my life was a wreck and at its lowest ebb, for picking me up and saving my soul. He made me a new person. Then I'm going to move out of this frail body and I'll have one just like

His. I can walk through a wall and never leave a hole. I can sit down and eat of the tree of life forever, and never get sick and never have indigestion. I'll never have a headache, never attend a funeral, never go to a jailhouse or prison to talk to someone about their soul because I'm going to be home. I'm going to have a new body; and have a new home.

He can make you a new person and start you on the journey today. Why not accept Him and trust Him now as your Lord and Savior?



Evangelistic Outreach Welcomes *New Board Member*

The Board of Directors unanimously made an appointment for a new Board member. Mark Harner joined the Board Members and Trustees of the ministry at the annual meeting. This appointment was of the Lord in every sense of the word. The final decision to bring on the new appointee was documented just before Dr. Homer Willis, who served this ministry faithfully for years, went to Heaven. The decision came through nearly three years of prayer and seeking the will of the Lord for the future of this work. It is so good to see the Lord move in His perfect way and timing.

Mark was saved at the age of 15 and has been an active part of the Bloom Free Will Baptist Church at South Webster, Ohio for nearly 32 years. He serves as a Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent for the church. He has been honored to participate in two building projects for the local congregation. He continues to serve his Pastor, Roger Lavender, and the fine folks at his home church.

He brings a wealth of experience and information to our Board. He has been with Nationwide Insurance and Financial Services for 20 years. He maintains three separate offices with a staff of ten employees. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Morehead State University and holds a LUTCF designation.

He is married to Joy and they have one son, Allen, who graduates from high school this year. The Harner family resides at South Webster, Ohio. They have been loyal friends and supporters of this ministry for many years. We consider it an honor to have a man of this caliber serving with us. Most of all, we are thankful for another addition to the Board by a member who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit and will be used by God for the guidance and wisdom needed to expand this outreach.

Preaching By:

Calvin Ray Evans
Mike Blanton
Calvin Evans
Brian Baer
Big Mo

Crusade in the Mountains

June 13 - 17

7:00pm

Toler FWB Church

Toler, KY

Brad Williamson, Coordinator

Singing By:

Salvation Rain
Mike Blanton &
Evidence
The Branhams
Big Mo
David Taylor