



The Word of Life

E-Mail Newsletter Bringing The Word of Life

"... that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

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*The world's a city
with many a
crowded street;
Death is the market
place where all men
meet.
If life were
merchandise that
gold could buy,
The rich would live,
the poor alone
would die.*

What is man? Text: Psalms 8:3-4

What is man? - is a question of the psalmist (as he stood gazing at the heavens) that is still a matter of mystery today. On the one hand we see man feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and singing the praises of God. On the other hand we see him ignoring his starving brother, killing his enemies, and cursing God with every breath! You and I are members of the same human race. What is man? The Bible answers this question from 6 different perspectives.



1. God Has Formed Man (Gen. 1:26-27). We were created by God in His image and likeness. According to scripture our existence is not the result of chance or some natural process. The false science of evolution teaches that man came from animals. The Bible declares from the very beginning that we are the direct result of God's creation. Our existence on earth has profound purpose and meaning.

2. Sin Has Deformed Man (Rom. 5:12). While declaring the dignity which man has as God's masterpiece, being God's image and likeness, it is also clear that our first parents and representatives fell in sin and, as a result, lost God's image (**Gen. 5:3-4**). The apostles John and Paul affirm man's sinfulness (**I John 1:8; Rom. 3:10-11**). According to the scriptures, humans are responsible for the sins which they do. Sin is characterized as rebellion against God (**I John 3:4**). It is the very source of all miseries and tragedies which beset mankind. Sin will ultimately condemn unrepentant mankind (**Jas. 1:15; Rom. 6:23**). But Jesus died and paid for the sins of mankind (**I John 4:14**).

3. Religion Has Reformed Man (2 Tim. 3:5). Man-made religion since the time of Cain is a cheap substitute for true spirituality. Religion may bring temporary reform to man but such is not lasting. Religious people may have outward form of godliness but no real inward transformation. Notice Christ's verdict on religious hypocrites – **Matt. 15:7-9** cf. **23:27**. Religion without real transformation is damnation!!

4. Education Has Informed Man (I Tim. 6:20-21; Col. 2:8; II Tim. 3:7). We live in the most educated generation in mankind's history. Because of various media – radio, TV, newspapers, books, magazines, and now the world wide web – we are now the most informed of all that ever lived on earth. Science, medicine and technology has made many amazing discoveries and inventions that made life easier and more convenient. Yet mankind is frustrated still and searching for

*When you see the
lilies spinning in
distress,*

*Taking thought to
manufacture
loveliness;*

*When you see the
little birds build
barns for store,*

*That's the time for
you to worry, not
before.*

See Luke 12: 27-28

meaning and purpose. Yes education can meet man's mental and intellectual needs, but to supply our spiritual needs, we must be changed by a spiritual birth made possible only by God's Spirit (**John 3:6-7**).

5. Christ Will Transform Man (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom 12:2). There is a sense in which salvation is a **RECREATION**. It is the recovery of our lost God-given image. The Bible says that Christ is the image of God (**2 Cor. 4:4; Col 1:15**). Thus, any man who has Christ has God's image restored to him. This was the purpose for which Christ came – to seek and save the lost and restore in man God's image.

6. God Will Conform Man (Rom. 8:29; Phil 3:20-21; I John 3:1-2). God's plan for His children will not only be a change in inward character but also in outward appearance when Christ comes at the Rapture. What a blessed hope for those who have trusted Christ as Lord & Saviour! (**Tit. 2:13**)

Conclusion: A famous painter once took his easel to the heart of Paris. He secured a studio overlooking a back street. His attention was captured by a man below—a common derelict, dirty and unshaved, spending most of his days in a drunken stupor. He decided to paint him, but not as a bum. He painted him clean, well-groomed, an image of self-respect. Then he showed the portrait to the man. *"That's not me,"* he said. *"It can't be."* The artist replied, *"When I look at you, this is the man I see."* *If that is the man you see,"* said the derelict, *"then that is the man I will be!"* God sees us not just as we are now, but as we can be. For **"...while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).**



Point to Ponder: Make sure the thing you are living for is worth dying for. *Charles Mayes*

The real me?

Within my earthly temple there's a crowd
There's one of us that's humble, one that's proud,
One that's broken hearted for his sins,
One that's unrepentant, sits and grins,
One that loves his neighbour as himself,
One that cares for nought but fame and pomp and self,
From much corroding care I should be free
If I could once determine which of these is me.

Marvels of the Human Body

Nothing has captured the imagination of modern man quite like the new developments in cardiac surgery. Dr. Barnard's first heart transplant has been short-listed as one of the twentieth century's greatest achievements. The invention of implantable defibrillators and coronary angioplasty / bypass surgery highlight the intense focus of medical science on the health of the human heart.

The heart has always been regarded as central to man's health and well being. About 1000 BC Solomon wrote: *A sound heart is the life of the flesh.* (Proverbs 14:30). All other organs depend on heart function, and if it were to take a break for even a few minutes, death would ensue.

At rest, the heart pumps thirty times its own weight each minute, with never a rest. This amounts to over 5,000,000 litres per year, but in reality with varying physical activity it is much more. The heart propels blood containing nutrients and oxygen

*In whom we have
redemption through
his blood, the
forgiveness of sins,
according to the
riches of his grace.*

Ephesians 1: 7

through 100,000 kilometers of blood vessels and it has been magnificently designed for the task. In addition, the blood absorbs carbon dioxide, heat and wastes for disposal. The amount of blood pumped out with each beat is finely tuned to the body's needs. This marvel of nature points unmistakably to an intelligent Designer: God, who made man in His own image and likeness. God's impress upon man is seen not only in the physical, but also in the non-physical - the mind, will, thoughts, consciousness and emotions. This is the centre of our being which the Bible calls the heart. Proverbs 4:23 says: ***Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.***

Man lost that perfect fellowship and friendship with his Creator through disobedience when sin entered the human race. That is why *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* (Jeremiah 17:9). The Lord Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sin and restore our relationship with God.

The psalmist David prayed, *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.* (Psalm 51:10).

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9). God will then give you a new heart which lives forever. *Facts for Faith Dr. Mel. Heazlewood M.D*

Fearfully & wonderfully made

I will praise Thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Thy works and that my soul knoweth right well.... Psalm 139: 14

'...life as we know it requires hundreds of thousands of proteins, and it has been calculated that the odds against producing these by chance is more than $10^{40,000}$ to 1.'

Sir Fred Hoyle famously compared these odds against spontaneous formation of life with the chance of a tornado sweeping through a junkyard and producing a Boeing 747 jet aircraft.

'God's Undertaker - Has Science buried God?'

Dr. John C. Lennox



Micro-Marvels of the Human Eye

The tiny computer chip - the basis of modern computers - is a thin wafer of silicon only about 7 millimeters across - about one-fourth of an inch. This tiny chip might have the equivalent of 100,000 transistors built into it. Despite its size, hundreds of connections might be attached to it. The design of the computer chip is a marvel surpassed only by the amazing technology that can build it.

If you were to find a silicon chip laying in the silicon sand at the beach (which would be quite an accomplishment, because they are so small!), you would never be able to convince even one engineer that the chip had formed through the chance movements of all that silicon-based sand!

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Now consider the human eye. The retina at the back of the eye is a very thin membrane, much thinner than even the clingiest food wrap. This retina contains not transistors but much more sophisticated photo-receptors, each of which is a high-gain amplifier. The retina doesn't have 100,000 of these, but rather it has 200,000 for each square millimeter of retina! But the greatest wonder of all is how any scientist can say that your miraculous eye is the result of unguided genetic mistakes that, just by chance, resulted in the eye. Indeed, God's fingerprints are all over the creation, just as our human work is seen in the computer chip. How can one who can design only the computer chip dare question the One who can design the eye - and so much more!