



SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 | REV. MINHONG SONG

“You Are Infinitely Valuable” (Psalm 8:1-9)

¹ Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory
in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:

⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,

⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

We live in a consumer society where sometimes a person's worth is estimated in dollar figures. Cristiano Ronaldo is a case in point.

Last week Ronaldo returned to his old club Manchester United after 12 years of playing for Real Madrid and Juventus. Some tickets sold for as much as \$4,000. This year he will make tens of millions of dollars.

While some super athletes make a ridiculous amount of money, some people in our society will end up making only the minimum wages. So, is it right to assess the worth of a person based on how much he or she makes?



Psalm 8 raises the question, 'what is our value?' To answer it, we must begin with the question of the origin of life. Where do we come from? Where are we headed to? If we come from dust and return to dust someday, then, there isn't much worth to our lives. If, however, we have an immortal soul, then, it is a different story altogether.

So, where do we come from?

There are two competing world views or theories on the origin of life: creationism and evolutionism.

The Bible talks about creation:

So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (**Genesis 1:27**)

The implication is that because God created us in His image, we reflect who He is. We are like God. Moreover, we can expect God's care and protection for our lives because God values us.

Humans occupy an important position in God's created order as God created all things and then commanded humans to manage them. God also created other beings and purposed them to live with humans. We are most fulfilled when we live by God's will and purpose for our lives.

Because humans are created in the image of God, we can expect God's creativity, justice, mercy, and other attributes to be found in us.

Evolution, on the other hand, does not mention God. Evolution does not start with God because it explains humans' origin from a mineral (an inorganic substance) to a complex being. Hundred of millions of years ago, minerals somehow turned into a simple life form and, after many years, gradually became complex beings known as humans.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, evolution is "the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth."

Evolutionists examine nature such as fossil records and conclude that those genes that adapt well to a given environment survive and pass on through natural selection.

The problem with evolution is that there is no explanation for man's being beyond the human body. We are what we are because of our creativity, a sense of justice and mercy, and so forth.

As true believers, we cannot accept that we come from bare minerals and turn into simple and then complex life forms. We cannot accept the idea that monkeys become humans and ground mammals become dolphins in the water. No, we do not believe that. Instead, we believe that God made man and woman in his image, and God also made all living beings.

This question has enormous implications on how we view ourselves and others. Let us delve into Psalm 8 by David and learn about how we should consider ourselves.



What is a human?

The Psalmist begins with a praise (in fact, he begins and ends with a praise. Cf. vv. 1, 9). He, then, denounces those who do not acknowledge God's purposes in their lives (vs. 2).

³When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
⁴what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

David's confession is clear. In his limited knowledge of astronomy, he says, heavens are the work of his fingers and that God has set every star in its place in the universe. Our solar system has eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Gathered around our star, the Sun, we call them the Solar system.

When you go camping, you see the night sky on a clear day. You are mesmerized by the sheer number of stars out there. You see the North Star. You see the Milky Way. Then, you see the Big Dipper.

Have you ever wondered how many stars there are in the Milky Way? There are between 200 to 400 billion stars. That is in one galaxy. Remember, the neighboring Andromeda Galaxy contains an estimated one trillion stars. How many galaxies are there in the universe? NASA says there are hundreds of billions of galaxies out there. So, if you want to count how many stars there are in the universe, well, it is astronomical!

This observation should humble us! We are not even greater than tiny dust in the overall scheme of things. God, who created the sun and the moon and the stars, have also created humans. And God placed humans at the center of His creation to manage God's creation.

⁵You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

We are made lower than the angels, but we are definite made above all other creatures. God put everything under our feet. He crowned us with glory and honor. Crowning means making us be rulers, to rule over the works of God.

Let us then recognize the critical fact that humans are fundamentally different from all other God's creations. We alone have God's image and characteristics in us. Take, for example, the intelligence of human beings. Humans can invent. A long time ago, we invented wheels to carry things easily. Then, we trained horses and cows to pull carts. Then we created automobiles. We invented robots to mass-produce cars. We developed artificial intelligence so that humans do not have to drive cars. That is intelligence from God, something no other creation can share!



That is our value or our worth. We are infinitely valuable in the sight of God as we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

What does all this mean?

It means we must remember our infinite worth and learn to love ourselves and our neighbors as God sees us.

Now imagine how offensive this whole thing is to a Jewish person who hates to be around pigs. We must not look down upon ourselves or debase ourselves. Remember the lesson from the Return of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15? The younger son squandered all his inheritance and lived among pigs. He was so hungry that he even ate pig's food. That is how lowly he became.

But when the son remembered that there was lots of food in his father's house, he chose to return to his father in repentance. He came home because he remembered how valuable he was to his father.

Yes, we are infinitely valuable! Sadly, some people in the world do not understand this concept. People continue to exploit, heap abuse, and kill one another. Yesterday marked the twentieth anniversary of the 911 attack. In the blink of an eye, three thousand people lost their lives by the terrorist attack.

When we do not realize how precious each human being is, we do horrible things to one another. We ARE infinitely valuable before God. We ought to have high self-esteem. We also should remember how precious our neighbor is and treat one another with utmost respect and care.

May the LORD bless us all.

Let's pray.