

*Psalm 8*  
*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
*July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011*  
*Pastor Joel T. Sauer*  
*Year A*

**Marvel at God's Glory!**

- I. Seen in the Works of His Hands! (1- 2)**
- II. Seen in the Work of His Son! (3 – 9)**

Grace and peace are yours from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

The portion of scripture that we shall meditate upon this morning is taken from the book of psalms – Psalm 8, which we read earlier. Permit me to read a couple verses again:

1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of 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 man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

This is God's Word!

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This past week for our Vacation Bible School, we had a couple youth groups from Fort Worth come to help. There were plenty of newbies and also plenty of those helping who had been here before. One of the things which I noticed this year was how they loved to look up at the sky at night. They would sit out in the driveway and parking lot just looking up at the stars. Down here in the Valley, you are able to see the sky and the stars clearly. They loved that. Taking their example, I did the same. As I sat staring up at the stars, I couldn't help but be amazed at how great God truly is and how beautiful His creation.

In our lesson this morning from Psalm 8, King David tells us about a time that he did the same. With so many distractions in our world today, we often don't have time to stop, listen, and smell the roses – so to speak. So this morning, King David tells us – **Marvel at God's Glory!** Marvel at His Glory, **seen in the Works of His Hands**, and **in the Work of His Son**. With that in mind, let's look at he Psalm before us this morning and may the Holy Spirit bless our study of His Word as we are filled with appreciation, admiration and awe for the marvelous Glory of Our God! Let's go to our lesson.

The author of this psalm is King David, the great ruler of the nation of Israel. Reading through this psalm, David invites us to see what he saw. Picture yourself in the

land of Israel. It is late autumn and a little chilly outside. The sun has just set and as you look up in the black dark of night, to the east you see a large ivory moon. You notice how the sun's departure has made the stars become brighter with each passing moment. There are stars upon stars until the heavens are full of them. And if you turn your eyes slightly to the side - there are still more that you did not see. Surrounded by all these stars, here you lie, gazing at the infinite, the innumerable, the immeasurable, the eternal, and you feel insignificant, small, a speck of dust on a pebble of a planet. It is no wonder David was compelled to write, to proclaim – **“O Lord, Our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.”**

The stars and the moon reminded David of God's glory; for in the many galaxies swirling above him, David saw God's magnificence. He was reminded that God created all things – the light, the sun, the stars, the moon. He was reminded of God's almighty power, His greatness, His glory.

Have you ever stared at the night skies like David or looked out over the Gulf of Mexico and stood in awe? Look at your hand, many bones and tendons working in conjunction with each other, consider your eyes and how images, light, and texture are transferred to your brain, or consider simply the many colors and how amazing that everything isn't just black and white, but painted by God's hand with bold brilliant colors. It is astounding. And when we consider all of God's creation – like David, we can't help but see God's glory, His majesty.

Can we even comprehend the greatness, the awesomeness of God? This past week in our Vacation Bible School, one of the stories the children learned was how God rescued the Israelites by parting the Red Sea – with a wall of water on their left and right! Did the children raise doubts upon hearing this? Did they say, “That's impossible?” No. They simply believed it. They believed and gave praise to God without exception, without doubt, without questioning.

Oh, if only, as adults, we could have such a child-like faith! How many times don't we fret over the little things in life as if God isn't majestic and powerful enough to help us? I myself was anxious as we were preparing for Vacation Bible School – especially with so many youth coming down this year. But during the week, one of the youth leaders came up to me and said – “Isn't it amazing how we had just the right amount of teachers and leaders to care for all the kids?”

That youth leader brought me back down to earth, or better, focused my attention back to the majestic God! It is that child-like faith that tells us that no matter what God is still in control. And we are reminded of God's glory, of His greatness, whether we gaze at the stars in the heavens or listen to the soft cry of a baby, for this all is the work of His almighty hand.

But just looking at creation around us doesn't tell us everything about God's glory. We marvel at the works of His hands, but even more incredible is the work of His Son – Jesus Christ. That is what we want to take a look at next.

In verses 3-6, David writes, **“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 man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:”** David felt tiny compared to all that was around him. It brought a question to his mind – “Why

would God have anything to do with me?” David marveled that with all God had created, with all the power God had – Why would God even take notice of him, even take notice of humankind!

Why *would* God have anything to do with us, why *would* He even take notice of us? After all, haven't we sinned against Him? Haven't we, time and again, forgotten to praise Him every day? Haven't we allowed other things to take priority in our lives? So much so that pretty soon, we are making excuses for our distance from God. Why, after all we have done against God, would He even want to associate Himself with us?

The answer is found in His Son – Jesus Christ and all He has done for us. The New Testament book of Hebrews tells us that verses 5 & 6 also refer to Jesus. Listen to what the book of Hebrews says, “...**we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.**” (Hebrews 2:9)

Marvel at God's glory in the work of His Son! The Son of God stooped to save us. He left His heavenly throne to wrap Himself in human flesh, humbled Himself, making Himself lower than the angels, humbled Himself to suffer, humbled Himself to die. He did this because of His love for us. By Christ's death on the cross, those sins of disobeying God, those hateful thoughts, words and actions have been forgiven. That is God's Glory – the saving work of Jesus!

But the story doesn't end there. Look at what David says, “...**crowned with glory and honor. You made Him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under His feet.**” Jesus did not stay dead in the grave. The VBS Children learned this lesson well. Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. And because He rose, because He ascended - you can be sure that He rules over all, that He watches over your life, that He will continue to see to your needs.

Not only do we marvel at God's glory in what His Son did for us, but also what He continues to do for us! What is troubling your life right now? When you are overcome with sorrow – stop, look, listen – marvel at His glory. He loved you so much that He sent His very own Son to die for you, to take away your sins. When you are afraid of what might happen in the future – stop, look, listen – marvel at His glory. He loves you so much that He promises that He will always be with you. If God loved you so much to have His Son die for you, you can be confident that because of His love, He will continue to watch over you, continue to help you when times get rough and will take you to be with Him far above the stars, far above the moon, far above to your glorious home – heaven.

Brothers and sisters, when you look up at a dark sky full of stars, what comes to your mind? May we be filled with awe. May we contemplate just how incredible God is, how incredible it is that He would be mindful of us, taking care of us, and most importantly – saving us. The next time you get a chance to look up at the stars and moon, marvel at God's Glory and pray – “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

In the name of Jesus!  
Amen.

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