

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31 – Eph. 4:20-24
Singing: 421: 1, 5 – 57:1-3 – 256:3-5 – 87:1-3

Recap: Why preach on the raw facts of our fallen condition?

A. To awaken us to run to the Physician of our soul

1. Many neither *lament about sin nor dance about grace* (Matt. 11:16-17)

B. To lead you on the first step to recovery: *repentance*

1. What is repentance? (1 Thess. 1:9)

2. Is your question, “What am I to repent of?”

a. How you think about & treat yourself (Joel 2:12-14)

b. How you act or fail to act (Ezek. 18:30-32)

c. How we came into the condition we are now in? (Hosea 13:9; 14:1)

THE GLORY OF OUR BEGINNING (2)

I. The glory of our living space II. The glory of our being

III. The glory of our relationships

II. THE GLORY OUR BEING

A. God made us all *special beyond expression*

1. Gen. 1:26 reveals He made us *to be like Him so we could represent Him*

2. What is this ‘specialness’ of us humans?

a. various *lesser* aspects (commonly called *wider image*)

b. Eccl. 7:29, Eph. 4:23-24, Col 3:10 define *higher* aspects (narrow image)

● upright

● righteous

● holy

● knowledge

3. To sum up: *We are glorious creatures, shining with holiness!*

Take home reflections ...

A. Is not this a time for weeping: *behold the ruins of the fair palace we were!*

1. we were not just a *beautiful castle of dust* (Eph. 2:22; 2 Cor. 6:16)

2. we were without *beautiful in holiness* (contrast with Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9)

B. As we reflect, forget not to remember

1. that our former state was not just perfect

2. that our former state was also secure and invincible unless ...

C. Though we would expect our offense to God to seal our condemnation, God revealed that *with Him there is salvation*

1. Hear Him swear by His own glory:

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the LORD God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

Ezek. 33:11

2. Hear the Father's direction:

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: hear Him!"

Matt. 17:5

THOUGHTS TO PONDER FURTHER ...

1. Why is it so important to start learning about ourselves from Gen. 1-2?
2. The Westminster Catechism asks, *"What is the chief purpose of man?"* The answer is a brilliant summary, *"To glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."* Ponder what *glorifying God* is and how this is related to *enjoying Him forever*? Ask yourself whether this is happening in your daily walk, and if not, what needs to change?
3. Read and meditate through the teaching of Canons, 3rd/4th Head, art. 4. How does our guilt increase since we fell?