



You Are Important

*“What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?”
Psalm 8:4 NKJ.*

God wants you to know—ponder, think about, meditate upon—the fact that you are important to Him personally and in His plan for the world. Maybe you’ve been feeling pretty unimportant lately. If so, this letter is especially for you.

In the verse I chose for this letter, David marvels that God—the great and awesome creator of the universe and everything in it—is mindful of mankind. It *is* a marvelous realization when we consider how big and mighty God is and how small and weak we are in comparison. David looks at the heavens, the stars and the moon and looks then at himself—and is amazed at the contrast and where God placed the greatest value.

But there is a reason. David went on to say that God honored man by making him “a little lower than the angels” and by crowning him with glory and honor (verse 5). The Hebrew word translated “angels” is *Elohim*, which in other places in Scripture is usually translated “God.” I believe the translators of the King James Version of the Bible may have thought it presumptuous to translate this verse in their normal pattern and chose rather to insert “angels” instead of “God.” Nevertheless, what a thought—that David, writing under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, could have meant God made man a little lower than Himself!

We know from Genesis 1 that we are made in God’s image and in His likeness. Nothing else God created has that distinction. You are made like God. That’s why the songwriter could say: “God loves people more than anything.” God loves the lost and the saved. There is no person who has ever lived nor yet will live whom God did

not love. “For God so loved the world [every person great or seemingly small] that He sent His only Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

You are personally important to God whether or not your station in life appears important to other people. He decided to make us the special object of His love and care before He ever created Planet Earth. He is ever mindful of us. In that great Psalm 139, David said: “How precious are your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand. . . .” (vv. 17-18). I once heard someone say God is able to think of every person alive six times every second. I have no idea on what he based his calculations. I do believe God thinks about us and watches over us continually.

In the Book of Zechariah we read: “For thus says the Lord of hosts . . . he who touches you touches the apple of His eye” (2:8 NKJ). Maybe you have been mistreated or abused. Mistreatment and abuse affects our self-esteem and self-concept. Though abuse and mistreatment damages our souls and spirits, the good news is that God heals. We can release all unforgiveness, bitterness and resentment to God who will restore us to wholeness.

When we have been wronged, we do not have to be concerned about vengeance or retribution, because that is God’s right and responsibility. In Zechariah 2:9, God continues, speaking about those who touch “the apple of His eye”—“For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil. . . .” God is on your side. In Psalm 103:6, David wrote: “The lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.” Sooner or later we will see it, if we leave the matter in God’s hands.

It may be true that in the overall scheme of things in this world, your life may not appear very significant. That, however, is not God's perspective. Every individual has a unique role in God's plan. No one else can take your place in that plan. What God has assigned as your role, He has assigned to no other. No one but you. Other people may do the same type work, but you are as individual as a snowflake. Your unique personality and DNA were put together by God and He threw away the mold. There is no one else who thinks or does things exactly as you do. God has many artists, secretaries, teachers, engineers, mothers, athletes, writers, landscapers, fathers, builders, and so on. However, what He put in you to be and to do—He made no provision for any one else. Whatever your contribution to this world is meant to be, no one else can or will ever do it like you can.

God has a very significant plan for each of His children. It is not contingent on the job we have, or the role we play in our family or the place we have in the world. In the middle of those things, He has created us to be salt and light. In Matthew 5, Jesus said—"You are the salt of the earth" (v. 13) and "You are the light of the world" (v. 14). These are significant to God's kingdom and do not change with our circumstances nor with changes in our outward physical abilities or appearance.

Every child of God is salt and light whether we are beautiful or not so beautiful. Whether we are smart or not so smart. Whether we have high position or low position. And the world desperately needs salt and light. Our presence and functioning as salt and light allows the taste and the light of heaven to flavor and brighten this world.

To function as salt we need to stay in close contact with the One of whom Scripture says, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good . . ." (Psalm 34:8). To function as light we need to stay in the Light source. Jesus, said, "I am the Light of the world. . ." (John 8:12). We reflect His light as the moon reflects the sun's. Anyone can do that as long as nothing comes between them and Jesus. And I believe our functioning as salt and light is more important than

any other things we may do—no matter our place or role.

Being salt and light will be very natural as we let Jesus' presence and goodness permeate us by our love for Him and closeness to Him. Others will taste Jesus' goodness and see Jesus' light as what is within us comes out in our words and actions. Neither salt nor light work very hard at being what they are. It's not a work that we do. It is first of all a "being" rather than a "doing." It's an outworking of the One who is within us. That's why any child of God can be/do it.

Anyone, *with God's help*, can stay close to Jesus and keep things from between themselves and Jesus. We do, however, have to be willing to be applied as salt in this world in sometimes unsavory conditions—around people who may not like us and in some places where we might not want to be. We also have to be willing to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). That's one reason God hasn't taken us all home yet. We have a very important assignment from Him. You are very important in His plan.

We are God's plan for seasoning and giving light to the world. He has no other plan. He hasn't sent the angels to do that. They assist us, protect us, and minister to us as *we* give flavor and light. We also are God's voice in the world to spread the gospel to fallen humanity. We are His only plan for that as well.

There was a time when I thought I really didn't matter. I did not understand the value God placed on me. I did not understand how much He loved me. I am still growing in my understanding of His great love—love that does not depend on my station in life nor what I can "produce" or accomplish nor what I look like.

God says You—and I—are important to Him. I understand that better now. I hope you do too. **SH**

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Teaching Letter 30

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