

Lesson 3: The Nature of Man

Memory Verse: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7

I. Created in God's Image

1. Read about how God created man. Genesis 1:26,28

"And God said, Let us make man in our _____, after our _____: and let them have _____ over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over _____ the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and _____, and replenish [fill] the earth, and subdue it: and have _____ over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over _____ living thing that moveth upon the earth."

2. How was man honored by God? Psalm 8:5,6 "For thou hast made him a _____ lower than the angels, and hast _____ him with _____ and _____. Thou madest him to have _____ over the works of thy hands; thou hast put _____ things under his feet:"

Note: "Man was to bear God's image, both in **outward resemblance** and in **character**. Christ alone is 'the express image' (Hebrews 1:3) of the Father; but man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was **in harmony with the will of God**. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was **holy** and **happy** in bearing the image of God and **in perfect obedience to His will**." PP 45.2

Dictionary meaning of image: "Any copy, representation, or likeness."

II. The Nature of Man

3. Of what 2 parts was man made? Genesis 2:7

1. _____

2. _____ of _____

Note: Dust can mean clay, earth, or mud. This is the part of man that has appetites, passions, and desires. The Breath of Life, given us by God, is the part of us that has intellect, reason, and conscience.

4. The Body was created to house the Mind. Who wants to dwell in us? 1 Cor. 3:16 _____, by His Holy Spirit, wants to dwell in us.

5. Read 2 Cor. 4:6,7 What treasure is it talking about? It is the _____ of the _____ of the _____ of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

What are the earthen vessels? "That the excellency of the power may be of _____ and not of _____." **We are the earthen vessels. We were created to be filled with the light and glory, or character, of God!**

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III. What was man like when he was created?

6. Before Adam and Eve sinned, they could see God face to face. Hebrews 12:14 tells us that without _____ we cannot see God. If Adam and Eve could look at God, then what must they have been? _____

7. Adam and Eve were in the presence of God. What is in the presence of God? _____ or happiness. Psalm 16:11 tells us that in His presence is _____ of _____; at His right hand there are _____ for _____.

8. Adam and Eve ate from the tree of life. Revelation 22:14 tells us that those that _____ his _____, have the right to eat from the tree of life. In order to eat from the tree of life, we must be O _____ to all of God's law. Man was HOLY, HAPPY, and OBEDIENT.

IV. What is Man like Today?

9. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 tells us what people are like in the last days. What does it tell us?

The times will be _____. Why?

People are lovers of their _____ selves. They are selfish.

They are C _____. They want what others have.

They are boasters, P _____, and B _____.

They are D _____ to parents.

They are unthankful and _____.

They are with natural _____. They are hard-hearted.

They are trucebreakers, false accusers and T _____ -- They can't be trusted.

They are fierce and they despise those that are _____.

They love P _____ more than they love _____.

They have a _____ of godliness, but not the power of God in their lives.

They are not **real** Christians, but just call themselves Christians.

Are people holy, happy, or obedient today? YES NO

Has man lost the image of God? YES NO

Note: "When Adam came from the Creator's hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a **likeness to his Maker**. 'God created man in His own image' (Genesis 1:27), and it was **His purpose** that the longer man lived the **more fully** he should reveal this image -- the **more fully reflect the glory of the Creator**. All his faculties were capable of development; their capacity and vigor were continually to increase. Vast was the scope offered for their exercise, glorious the field opened to their research. The mysteries of the visible universe -- the 'wondrous works of Him which is perfect in knowledge' (Job 37:16) -- invited man's study. **Face-to-face, heart-to-heart communion with his Maker was his high privilege.** Had he remained loyal to God, all this would have been his forever.

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Throughout eternal ages he would have continued to gain new treasures of **knowledge**, to discover fresh springs of **happiness**, and to obtain clearer and yet **clearer conceptions** of the wisdom, the power, and the love of God. More and more fully would he have fulfilled the object of his creation, **more and more fully have reflected the Creator's glory**. Ed 15.1

"But by **disobedience this was forfeited**. Through sin the divine likeness was **marred**, and **well-nigh obliterated**. Man's physical powers were **weakened**, his mental capacity was **lessened**, his spiritual vision **dimmed**. He had become **subject to death**." Ed 15.2

V. What has Christ come to do?

10. The angel said to Joseph "Thou shalt call his name _____: for he shall _____ his people _____ their sins." Matthew 1:21 Jesus came to **free us** from **all** our sins.

11. When we allow Him to do that, Romans 6:14 tells us "For S _____ shall not have _____ over you." You will not be ruled by SIN anymore, but by His GRACE.

12. Titus 2:14 tells us that He _____ Himself for us. What was His purpose? It was to R _____ us from **all** _____, and _____ unto himself a _____ [unique, special, His own] people, zealous of _____ works."

13. 1 Peter 1:18-19 tells us how we were redeemed: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were _____ redeemed with corruptible things, as _____ and _____, from your _____ conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the _____ blood of Christ, as of a _____ without _____ and without _____."

Note: "To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized -- this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, **the great object of life**." Ed 15.2