

Without knowledge of God, John Calvin said, there can be no knowledge of self. You must know God; to know your self. You can't find yourself or discover yourself or define yourself, apart from God. Why is that? **Why say that?** The answer is: You weren't meant to. We are made to know God.

Verse 1 is why we exist. **O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.** There are two Lord's here. The first LORD, all caps in English is God's name, YHWH, I AM. That is God's personal, intimate, revealed Name. The second Lord is *Adonai*. Its a title. It means King, sovereign, ruler, master. I AM is our, my, your King. And His **Name** is majestic, kingly, in all the earth, not just Israel.

I read a book years ago called *The God Who Smokes*. The author is Timothy Stoner. He says "*God believes, that He is the most worthy, most majestic, magnificent, glorious, stunningly beautiful, being in the universe. That to Him alone, belong honor and glory and praise forever. And He is right. He is out of control, ours, not His.*"¹

Hence the God Who Smokes. He **burns** with glory and power and might and honor and fame and beauty. Nothing and no one is like Him. See, all things have **categories**. I'm a man. Lassie is a dog. Earth is a planet. Chevy is a car or truck. Ford is a . . . never mind. All things have categories. But God has no category.

And this God made us know Him as King and Ruler and Lord over all things, and to see and savor His majesty and beauty. Is that true of you? What has your heart? Do you know God this way?

Now how do you do that? How do you see God that way? David, in **this Psalm**, tells us. He tells us why God's name is majestic and glorious.

The glory of God

¹ Timothy Stoner, *The God Who Smokes*, 83.

You want a reason to know God, look at His glory. Look at how huge and powerful and vast and stunning He is. David sees God's glory in two ways, two polar opposite ways; the heavens and helplessness.

Verse 1 You have set your glory above the heavens. By heavens he means things out and up there, creation. He means stars, moon, sun, mountains, weather, animals, plants, oceans, the world, the universe. The heavens are shot through with God's glory. God made the stars and sun and moon and birds and lions and planets to magnify His great name.

They **exist** for **glory**, his not theirs. See, the heavens aren't idolatrous. They don't worship themselves. They know their master. They know their maker.

Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

They don't proclaim themselves. They don't magnify and exalt themselves. They declare and proclaim God and His handiwork. And they **love doing it**. Creation is thrilled to magnify God.

Psalm 19:4 *In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out (in the morning) like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.*

So think wedding day. You are thrilled that she said yes. How'd you land her? Look at your bride, in white, smiling, beaming. Its a joyful. Think of **sports**; Tiger Woods fist pump, Michael Phelps screaming in celebration. The sun is like that. That gigantic, flaming ball, 100 times the earth's size, exists for God. It is beaming with joy to magnify God.

Psalm 104 mentions all these animals and creatures that God made. Then he says

*“May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works” (Ps 104:31).*

So don't misuse creation; sun, moon, stars, animals. What do I mean? Don't magnify creation. Don't praise creation. Praise its Maker, its Creator. **Sunrises** are for savoring God, not sunrises. **Zoos** are to zoom God in. You with me? Don't make the heavens an idol.

He set glory in the **heavens**, but also in **helplessness**.

Look at **verse 3** *Out of the mouths of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.* What does he mean here? He means this: God is so powerful, he can use the weakest to defeat the strongest. In other words, He is **magnified** through our **helplessness**. God's power and glory and might is most made known, NOT through our power and might and skill, but through weakness.

The more you need Him, the more know Him.

Infants are helpless. They can't do anything for themselves. But through that, they are powerful. They control everything. When you sleep, when you get up, when eat, when you go out, if you go out, how big your car is. You're a slave for 18 years. 18 wonderful years.

And **when you are most helpless**, most needy, most dependent, God is magnified through that. But our strength and might and savviness, apart from God, belittles Him. That's why God hates **pride** and **haste**. Pride degrades God. It moves Him aside and you take over. Haste, hurriedness, rushing tries to force God's hand. You rush out with all these plans and ideas and dreams and visions and leave God behind.

So **Proverbs 4:7** says this *“The beginning of wisdom is this, get wisdom.”*

Wisdom says, “I'm a moron. I need wisdom. I need insight, counsel, help, advise.”

Then 9:10 in Proverbs says this *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of*

wisdom.” Just being human should drive you to God and glory in Him and pray to Him and lean into Him.

You can't **exhaust** this God. You can't tap His limits. You can't over-trust Him or over hope in Him, or over love Him. There is always more of Him to know and learn and trust and see. He never runs out of **grace**. He is **blazing** with joy and life. And if you're **bored** with God, you've got the wrong one. Your god is too small.

Look at the heavens, admit your own helplessness and be amazed at this God.

The grace of God

His grace makes Him majestic and glorious. What do I mean? Look at ***3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place. . .***” Lets stop there. Think of the heavens, creation, the earth, sun, moon, stars, oceans, mountains, rivers, planets, our solar system.

For one, its sheer size.

Let's do some math. 1 million seconds is about 11 days. 1 billion seconds 32 years. 1 trillion seconds is 31000 years. 1 light year is about 6 trillion miles. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is 100,000 light years in diameter. There are possibly 100 billion other galaxies. But its the ***work of your fingers.***

Or its beauty.

I appreciate art. But some famous paintings or sculptures just don't move me. I'm like “*Really?*” But no one critiques nature, sunsets, planets. We love the sight and sounds and colors and designs of creation. In fact Discovery films it. Oprah narrates it. Thats how popular it is.

But also, its constancy.

It outlasts us. ***Ecclesiastes 1: 4 A generation comes, a generation goes, but the earth remains forever.***” You know he's saying? The VCR was awesome once. But

time went on and generations came and went and we advanced and invented and that's always happened. But the earth remains. The sun, moon, stars, tides, seasons, all keep doing their thing and never tire. And God made all of that with his **fingers**. That is how amazing God is.

And David sees how vast the world is and how glorious this God is and asks the question: **Verse 4** *what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?*

Man is a flea, a temporary speck on canvas of history. We are nothing. Go to Mt. Everest or the Grand Canyon or just walk outside, you will see your smallness very quickly. David sees that. Why would God even care?

This must **confront** you. You must consider this. We shouldn't matter.

Job says *"What is man, that you make so much of him,
and that you set your heart on him"* (Job 7:17).

Then he says in **25:5** *"Behold, even the moon is not bright,
and the stars are not pure in his eyes;
how much less man, who is a maggot,
and the son of man, who is a worm!"* (Job 25:5).

You need to ask this question. **Richard Dawkins**, a militant atheist, says *"There is at the bottom: no design, no purpose, no evil, and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. DNA neither knows nor cares, it just is, and we dance to its music."* His point is, there can't be a God who knows us and cares for us, look at the universe. It's huge. We are nothing.

Psalm 144 *"O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow."*

But David knows God. God is mindful of us and cares for us. Those are fatherly, parental, tender words. God remembers us. We are in His image. He moves toward us in love and grace and affection. He is watching over us, singing over us (Zephaniah 3).

You are no small thought to God.

See, the question we often wrestle with, aware or not, is DOES GOD LOVE ME? How you answer that, says everything about you. And we try so hard to make God love us. We work hard, keep our nose clean, avoid scandalous sin, attend church, and its all a **dance** sometimes. We just aren't sure, if He loves us. And it **gnaws** at us.

But this Psalm almost says "*How dare you think that.*" He knows you, all your flaws and faults and sins, and still loves you.

Now **be careful here**. Don't glory in man. He is not saying how lovely man is, how worthy man is. David is saying "*It shouldn't be this way. But despite my smallness and maggot-like existence, God still cares.*" That's why its **grace**. The universe screams **Grace!** God shouldn't be mindful, he shouldn't care, but he does. God who is this majestic and high, reaches down to us. So God's **high** thought of us, should give us **low** thoughts of us and **high** thoughts of Him. That leads to worship.

Blaise Pascal said knowledge of our wretchedness leads to our greatness. Because it drives us to God.

This is why God is so glorious and majestic and good.

So see His glory, see His grace, but finally

The dilemma of man

Now let me explain that. Look at verse 4 *Yet you have made him a little lower (power, abilities) than the heavenly beings (angels) and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands, you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

So David has in mind **Gen 1:26-28**. God made man, in His image, meaning we are the image. Its not **on** us, it **is** us. And God said be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over birds, fish, all that moves on the earth.

So despite our smallness and frailty and insignificance, God gave us all things on the earth. He **delegated** to us dominion and authority and the right to rule and invent and build and grow and advance.

But there is a huge problem. . .

Us. The world. Just look out. We can't rule ourselves. We are slaves to our own passions and lusts and desires and the result is, the world today. Of course there many good things we do. But the point is, we don't have Psalm 8 dominion.

Just look at Psalm **7:9, 9:19**. Cornelius Plantinga defined sin as: Not the way its supposed to be. We long for peace, perfect rule, dominion. Now you may ask, *where is that in the text?* There is no sin here, no fall, no curse in mind. And you're right. **But Hebrews 2** brings this out. We must consider what it says.

Look at your notes.

Hebrews 2:6-8 quotes Psalm 8:3-6. Then Hebrews 2:8 he says "***At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.*** We don't Psalm 8 subjection and dominion under man's feet. We see turmoil, tornadoes, pain, suffering, loss, death.

