

SESSION 7
**CHERISHED IN
GOD'S EYES**



*What have you owned that's
gone up in value?*

QUESTION #1
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#BSFLpriceless

God values and cares for even the weakest among us.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Most people instantly recognize the great value of gold. But what about aluminum?

Randall Lawrence inherited an old desk when his father, a former employee of the Denver Mint, passed away. Because he wasn't interested in the few coins his dad had left in the desk, Lawrence sold them to a local coin dealer. Those coins included a 1974-D penny cast from aluminum—one of the rarest coins in the world. Later, the dealer called Lawrence and offered to split the proceeds from the sale of this one penny. Its value? \$250,000!

It would have been sad if such a rare treasure had been overlooked or cast aside. Yet, tragically, something far more valuable than an aluminum penny gets cast aside every day: people. Children, the elderly, the weak, and the helpless too often become victims in a society that places too little value on human life.

As we explore Psalm 8, we'll see that God has an entirely different perspective regarding the value of human life.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Psalm 8:1-8

1 Yahweh, our LORD, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth! You have covered the heavens with Your majesty.

2 Because of Your adversaries, You have established a stronghold from the mouths of children and nursing infants to silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You set in place,

4 what is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him?

5 You made him little less than God, and crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You made him lord over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet:

7 all the sheep and oxen, as well as the animals in the wild,

8 the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea that pass through the currents of the seas.

Stronghold (v. 2)—The Hebrew term gives the meaning of power and strength in this context of God overcoming and silencing all His enemies.

The son of man (v. 4)—The phrase is used in common Hebrew parallelism, where the same idea is repeated using different wording. What is stated with man in the first line of the verse is restated using the son of man in the second line for emphasis.



Psalm 8:1-2

Do you remember the first time you saw a mountain rising majestically from the horizon? Or the first time you stood on the beach and saw nothing but ocean expanding before you? Experiences like that arrest our attention. They make us want to shout with David in verse 1: “Yahweh, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth!”

That’s because the greatness of creation reflects the greatness of the Creator. God is magnificent, and His magnificence is not hidden. The planet we live on shouts this truth in a million wondrous ways. David wrote of the One who created all we see and sustains it by His will—by His majestic power.

“You have covered the heavens with Your majesty” (v. 1). The more we learn about the universe, the more we realize how it shouts of God’s glory. Our Milky Way galaxy has hundreds of billions of stars, and scientists now consider it to be one of the smallest systems in the whole universe. The miniscule things in our universe also point to Him. Your DNA is made up of four chemicals, abbreviated by the letters A, T, G, and C. These “chemical letters” are arranged in each human cell something like this: GTATTGACTGAC. Each cell in your body knows what to do because of the order of those chemicals. Oh, and that code happens to be *three billion letters* long—in each cell. The presence of something that massive and detailed in something so small shouts of God’s majesty.¹

In his psalm, David mentioned “children and nursing infants” (v. 2). Though small and often dismissed by others as being of little value, they point to God’s glory. We might think of them as the weakest in all humanity, but their weakness in human eyes diminishes neither their strength nor their great worth in God’s view. Even the tiniest infant, incapable of coherent speech, is “a stronghold” who speaks mightily of God “to silence the enemy and the avenger” (v. 2).

Unfortunately, these are also the people among us that are the most easily dismissed. Abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia are attacks on God’s glory and creation.

How do these verses speak to the sanctity of human life?

QUESTION #2

Around the world, more than 40 million abortions occur annually. That means that while you are in your Bible study, more than 5,000 unborn babies will die.²

God can do great things through those people the world calls weak, helpless, or unnecessary. Indeed, God has chosen the weak things of the world to defeat the mighty (see 1 Cor. 1:27). Since the unborn, the weak, and the helpless are a part of His creation, He has made them for His glory, too.

How is God's majesty revealed through the youngest and weakest?

QUESTION #3

TIME TO PRAY

Prayer is one of our most important weapons in the fight against abortion. Choose two of the following categories to record people or circumstance you will pray for this week.

<i>Leaders and lawmakers</i>	<i>Pregnant mothers</i>
<i>Uncertain fathers</i>	<i>Companies and organizations</i>

Psalm 8:3-8

After establishing the magnificence of God's glory, David contrasted that with the relative insignificance of humanity. Yet God bestows honor and dignity on each person He creates.

Since God is so majestic, "What is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him?" (v. 4). David may have felt small and insignificant as He observed the universe, but David knew he was not insignificant at all in God's eyes. "You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor" (v. 5).

We are not equal with God or the angels, but neither are we simply on the same level with animals. Indeed, God crowned humans "with glory and honor."

In our position over animals and "the works of Your hands" (v. 6)—all that God has made—we have been given dominion. God said at creation, "They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth" (Gen. 1:26). God has crowned us with His glory, and we are to display that glory as we rule the earth.

Does an emphasis on the sanctity of human life really matter? Yes. I've seen the difference we can make when we value people as God does:

1. A pregnant, single woman decided to have an abortion. Her neighbor had another idea. If the woman would not abort, the neighbor would help raise her child and provide for both of them. She kept her promise. As a result of receiving that help, the woman gave birth, raised multiple children, and brought them to church every Sunday. I am their pastor, and I have personally seen these children confess their faith in Jesus.
2. A woman found herself pregnant, unmarried, and scared. Her boyfriend wanted her to have an abortion. She was upset and decided to attend church. She had no way of knowing that morning was Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. After hearing the message that day, she chose not to have an abortion; instead, she put her baby boy up for adoption. I had the privilege of holding this child who was adopted by a young pastor and his wife.

Many women carry the guilt of a past abortion. Statistics tell us that one out of three women will have an abortion by age 45.³ So, even as we hold high the sanctity of all human life, we must also proclaim the grace of God that is greater than all our sin. God's grace extends to those who have encouraged or participated in an abortion, for He deeply loves and values them, as well.

There is hope and life for all of us in Christ. He created all of us to display His glory.

How does this passage empower us to make a difference in the world?

QUESTION #4

As a group, how can we demonstrate that we value life the way God does?

QUESTION #5

LIVE IT OUT

What will you do to show your belief in the value of human life? Consider the following options for this week:

- ▶ **Memorize.** Commit Psalm 8:3-4 to memory in the days to come. Share this verse with others and tell them how much God values them as His creation.
- ▶ **Give.** There are many organizations that help mothers avoid an abortion by providing needed resources—financial, practical, emotional, and so on. Consider giving your own resources to advance the cause of these organizations in your community.
- ▶ **Get involved.** Make a list of practical ways you can be a light in your community regarding the sanctity of human life. Work with your Bible study group to carry out one of those ideas.



Aluminum is rarely valuable. Gold is often valuable. But human beings are always priceless. Praise God that He values and cares for even the weakest among us!

My thoughts

1. <http://www.everystudent.com/wires/Godreal.html>
2. <http://erlc.com/article/abortion>
3. <http://erlc.com/article/5-facts-about-abortion-in-america>