

## Man's Greatest Honor

### Psalm 8

#### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Man gives awards of achievement in nearly every realm of human endeavor (i.e., honor).
  - A. Movie industry: *Oscar Awards*
  - B. Television industry: *Emmy Awards*
  - C. Highest civilian awards in the U.S.
    - (1) *Presidential Medal of Freedom*
    - (2) *Congressional Gold Medal*
  - D. U.S. Military: *Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star, Medal of Honor*
2. Every organization or business I know of also has various ways of honoring its members, employees, etc.
  - A. Boy Scouts: merit badges, Scout, Tenderfoot, Life, Eagle, etc.
  - B. "Employee of the month"
  - C. MSU-Extension: *John Hannah Award*
3. I'm not saying such awards are wrong, not at all.
  - A. Some awards provide greater honor than others; e.g., "employee of the month" vs. CMOH.
  - B. I greatly admire *Medal of Honor* recipients (3,515 as of 7/2016, since 1863)(naming ship after Harvey Milk such a dishonor!).
4. **3** The purpose of this sermon is to determine what is *Man's Greatest Honor*.

#### II. DISCUSSION:

1. **4** Before disclosing what I believe to be *Man's Greatest Honor*; I want to examine something having an important impact on our subject.
2. The greatest character on the pages of God's book is Jesus Christ:
  - A. As we consider what is "*Man's Greatest Honor*"; we need to consider the wonderful character traits of our Savior
    - (1) **\*\* Holy:**

**Lk. 1:35:** "And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that **Holy One** who is to be born will be called the Son of God.'"

**Acts 4:27:** "For truly against Your **holy** Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together."

**Rev. 3:7:** "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says **He who is holy**, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens':"

      - (a) Holy is from the Greek word *hagios*.
      - (b) Strong: "morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated."

- (c) Vine: “fundamentally signifies ‘separated’ (among the Greeks, dedicated to the gods), and hence, in Scripture in its moral and spiritual significance, separated from sin and therefore consecrated to God, sacred.”
- (2) **\*\* Righteous:**
- Isa. 53:11:** “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My **righteous** Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”
- Heb. 1:9:** “You have loved **righteousness** and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”
- (a) Strong: “equity, justification”.
- (b) Vine: “the character or quality of being right or just.”
- (c) Thayer: “integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting.”
- (3) **\*\* Good:**
- Matt. 19:16:** “Now behold, one came and said to Him, ‘**Good** Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?’”
- Acts 10:38:** “...who went about **doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”
- (a) Strong: “to be philanthropic.”
- (b) Thayer: “to do good, bestow benefits.”
- (4) **\*\* Faithful:**
- Isa. 11:5:** “Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and **faithfulness** the belt of His waist.”
- 1 Thess. 5:24:** “He who calls you is **faithful**, who also will do it.”
- (a) Strong: “trustworthy.”
- (b) Vine: “faithful, to be trusted, reliable.”
- (5) **\*\* True:**
- Jn. 1:14:** “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and **truth**.”
- Jn. 7:18:** “He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.”
- 1 Jn. 5:20:** “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is **true**; and we are in Him who is **true**, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”
- (a) Strong: “trustworthy.”
- (b) Thayer: “to be true.”
- (6) **\*\* Just:**
- Zech. 9:9:** “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is **just** and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.”
- Jn. 5:30:** “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is **just**; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

**Acts 22:14:** “And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that **Just One**, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.”

(a) Strong: “equitable in character or act.”

(b) Vine: “straight way. In the NT it denotes ‘righteous,’ a state of being right, or right conduct, judged whether by the divine standard, or according to human standards, of what is right.”

(7) **\*\* Guileless:**

**Isa. 53:9:** “And they made His grave with the wicked — But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, **Nor was any deceit in His mouth.**”

**I Pet. 2:22:** “Who did no sin, **neither was guile found in his mouth.**”

(a) Strong: “a trick”; “deceit”; hence, He plays no tricks, He is not deceitful.

(b) Vine: “a bait, snare, deceit”; hence, He did not play any “bait and switch” games.

(8) **5 Sinless:**

**Jn. 8:46:** “Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?”

**2 Cor. 5:21:** “For He made Him who **knew no sin** to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

(a) Self-explanatory!

(b) What a wonderful example!

(9) **\*\* Spotless:**

**I Pet. 1:19:** “but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and **without spot.**”

(a) Strong: “faultless, unblameable.”

(b) Vine: no “shame...moral disgrace...”

(10) **\*\* Innocent:**

**Matt. 27:4:** “I have sinned by betraying **innocent** blood.”

(a) Thayer: “unpunished, innocent.”

(b) i.e., not deserving of any punishment!

(11) **\*\* Harmless:**

**Heb. 7:26:** “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, **harmless**, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;”

(a) Strong: “not guilty.”

(b) Vine: “void of evil.”

(c) One has nothing to fear from a “harmless” person.

(12) **\*\* Resisted temptation:**

**Matt. 4:1–10**

**Psa. 119:11:** “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

(a) Answered with Scripture each of the three times tempted, per Psalm 119:11.

(13) **\*\* Obedient to God the Father:**

**Psa. 40:8:** “I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.”

**Jn. 4:34:** “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’”

**Jn. 15:10:** “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.”

(a) People get all “hot around the collar” because they must be in subjection to someone or something (e.g., govt., police, husband, God).

(b) Jesus never chafed under the rule of the Father; He gladly welcomed it!

(14) **\*\* Zealous:**

**Lk. 2:49:** “And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?’”

**Jn. 2:17:** “Then His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.’”

**Jn. 8:29:** “And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

(a) Strong: “ardor” (good); “jealousy” (bad).

(b) Vine: a “fervent mind.”

(c) The zeal Jesus exhibited was always “good” zeal!

(15) **6 Meek:**

**Isa. 53:7:** “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”

**Zech. 9:9:** “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.”

**Matt. 11:29:** “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

(a) Strong: “mild, humble.”

(b) Consider the great power Christ could summon! Matt. 26:53: “twelve legions of angels” (~6,000 per legion or ~72,000 total!)

(16) **\*\* Lowly in heart:**

**Matt. 11:29:** “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

(a) Akin to “humble.”

(b) Can commiserate with us in our low estate brought about by sin.

(17) **\*\* Merciful:**

**Heb. 2:17:** “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

(a) Strong: “compassionate” (not harsh or austere).

(b) Vine: “not simply possessed of pity but actively compassionate.”

(18) **\*\* Patient:**

**Isa. 53:7:** “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”

**Matt. 27:14:** “But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.”

(a) Can we even begin to appreciate how He could have struck out against and savaged His opponents.

(b) What power there is in patience!

(19) **\*\* Longsuffering:**

**I Tim. 1:16:** “However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all **longsuffering**, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”

(a) Strong: “forbearance.”

(b) Thayer: “...slowness in avenging wrongs.”

(c) “Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?” —Abraham Lincoln

(20) **\*\* Compassionate:**

**Isa. 40:11:** “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.”

**Lk. 19:41:** “Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,”

**Matt. 23:37:** “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

(a) A compassionate heart does not seek revenge, but reconciliation.

(b) Consider that as one thinks of the century upon century of opposition God received from His own people.

(21) **\*\* Benevolent:**

**Matt. 4:23, 24:** “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.”

**Acts 10:38:** “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

(a) A benevolent heart shows it by the action of sharing what is needed with another who doesn’t deserve it!

(b) Jesus shared everything He had to an ultimate degree!

(22) **7 Loving:**

**Jn. 13:1:** “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”

**Jn. 15:13:** “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”

(a) NIV: “He...showed them the full extent of His love.”

(b) Insofar as “love” is concerned He held back nothing! What courage!

(23) **\*\* Self-denying:**

**Matt. 8:20:** “And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’”

**2 Cor. 8:9:** “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

(a) Remember the “Starbreather”?

(b) If there was ever anyone who deserved the very best the world could offer...it was Him!

(c) Yet He forsook all of that to serve and sacrifice for others!

(24) **\*\* Humble:**

**Lk. 22:27:** “For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.” (Jn. 13:1ff)

**Phil. 2:8:** “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

(a) Remember the “Starbreather”?

(b) The depth of His humility is seen by what He gave up to do the Father’s will.

(25) **\*\* Resigned:**

**Lk. 22:42:** “saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’”

(a) With Jesus, He was never about “it’s all about Me!”

(b) No, God’s will came first no matter what it cost Him.

(26) **\*\* Forgiving:**

**Lk. 23:34:** “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’”

(a) Forgiveness requires one to seek the interest of others before those of self (Phil. 2:4).

(b) That was a character trait Jesus possessed in super-abundance.

(27) **\*\* Subject to His parents:**

**Lk. 2:51:** “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.”

(a) The greatest gift a child may give their loving parents is loving obedience.

(b) Jesus is the model of faithful, heart-felt obedience in every realm of His life.

3. **8** Now, what do you think is man’s greatest honor?

**Rom. 8:29:** “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed** to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

A. Vine/Thayer: “having the same form as another”

- B. Christ is the “model” or “pattern” to which we as Christians are to mold ourselves: our actions, attitudes, thoughts, down to our deepest “self”!
- C. What an H-O-N-O-R!
  - (1) \*\* Can you think of a greater honor than having God Himself ask you “*to be conformed to the image of His Son*”?
  - (2) This “honor” carries great responsibility and great reward.
  - (3) Are you up to the task?
  - (4) If God extends this great calling, surely He will provide all we need to fulfill it in our lives.

### III. CONCLUSION: 9

- 1. Will you accept *Man’s Greatest Honor*?
  - A. Acceptance carries great responsibility.
  - B. Acceptance offers great reward (\*\*Phil. 3:21).
- 2. Invitation