

# **SERMON OUTLINE**

## **'KNOWING CHRISTIANITY'**

### **Study - 3**

#### **Genesis 1 - 3**

#### **'What do we believe about man?'**

Key Text - Job 7 v17 & Ps 8 v4 - "What is man?"

Title - 'Who do you think you are?'

In asking "what is man?" the Bible is posing a question of identity. That is - who am I? And - what is it that makes me to be the me that I am, the me who needs God? In answering this question we need to go back to Genesis 1 to 3 where read about the great paradox / the great enigma concerning man - his dignity and his disgrace. To explain this, there are 3 things which we need to say about man.....

### **1. MAN IS CREATED BY GOD**

That is, man is not the end product of some evolutionary process going back millions and millions of years. No - he is a created being. Indeed, Genesis 1 and 2 teaches us that man is special - he is the crown of God's creation. Unlike the animals, he is made in the image of God. See - 1 v26 - 27. What does this mean?

**A. GOD IS A RATIONAL BEING - AND SO IS MAN**

**B. GOD IS A MORAL BEING - AND SO IS MAN**

**C. GOD IS A SPIRITUAL BEING - AND SO IS MAN**

## **2. MAN IS RUINED BY SIN**

The essence of sin is man wanting to be God in his own life. See - 3 v4. But what are the consequences of sin? One of these is that the image of God in man has been ruined - and that in 3 ways.....

**A. WITH RESPECT TO MAN'S RATIONALITY -  
HIS UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN DARKENED**

**B. WITH RESPECT TO MAN'S MORALITY -  
HIS MORALS HAVE BEEN POLLUTED**

**C. WITH RESPECT TO MAN'S SPIRITUALITY  
HIS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD HAS BEEN SEVERED**

Note - Though the image of God in man has been ruined, it has not been destroyed. See - James 3 v9

Alastair Begg - 'Man is a glorious ruin'

This is the paradox / the enigma about man in that he is capable of so much that is gloriously good, and right, and noble - and yet at one and the same time cable of these things which are a complete and utter disgrace.

## **3. MAN IS RESTORED BY GRACE**

God's plan in the gospel is not just to save us from our sins, but to restore the image of God in us in order that we might be more like Jesus. See - 2 Cor 3 v18. This is an ongoing work which will only be completed in heaven. See - 1 Jn 3 v2