

Our Perfect Creation

- *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Gen. 1:26-28*

When We Learned... Too Late

- *Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes.” Eccl. 7:29*
- *Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. Isa 59:1-2*
- By the time we were aware of God and sought His friendship and favor it was too late.

Far ... Far ... Too Late

- *And you, were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*
Eph 2:1-3

Yet ... Not Too Late ...

- *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:4-8*

God Had Already Made Provisions

*Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled** us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, 19 that is, that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses** to them, and has **committed to us the word of reconciliation** 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.** 2Cor 5:18-20*

Friendship with God still Possible!

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. Jn. 15:13-16

God can see how interested we are in a friendship by how we seek to keep commands

Reconciliation

- An opportunity to make friends with our God, our Father and the Creator of all things.
- *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8*
- *Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. James 2:21-24*

God – Our Friend ... Are We His Friend

- There is a difference!
- His friendship is fixed and constant ... No partiality, No respect of persons.
- We all have the same opportunity!
- Friendship with God requires our sacrifices.
- He has already sacrificed and given for us.
- What have we given in return?
- Are we interested?

David: Man after God's Own Heart

- *He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'* Acts 13:21-23
- *For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,* Acts 13:36-37
- A True Friend Sacrifices and Serves

Draw near to God ... He will draw near

- *Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Ps 103:1-5*

Draw near to God ... He will draw near

- *6 The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.*
Ps 103:6-10

Draw near to God ... He will draw near

- *11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. Ps 103:11-14*

Draw near to God ... He will draw near

- *15 As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. 16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. 17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, 18 To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them. Ps 103:15-18*

Draw near to God ... He will draw near

- *The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. 21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. 22 Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Ps 103:19-22*