

May 21, 2014

The Most Important Thing

Psalm 103:19 (NASB), ***“The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.”***

I recently picked up a book that I read for the first time almost a decade ago entitled Made In Our Image: What Shall We Do With A “User-Friendly god?” by Steven J. Lawson. This book, which had been given to my wife by our very dear friend Chuck Hayes, changed my view of God. At the time I had just begun preaching and was filling the pulpit at a small church in Longton Kansas. As a family we were still attending a church in Howard Kansas and one Sunday while I was away preaching, Chuck filled the pulpit in Howard and brought that book along with him. He gave that book to Cheri, she read it and then encouraged me to read it but not before we argued sometimes vehemently about the contents of this book.

The problem that I had in my life at that time was that I had a small view of God. I had created a god in my own image rather than understanding that it was actually the other way around. I had chosen to breeze by the many passages of Scripture that talked of God’s power, His majesty, His sovereignty, and yes even His righteousness and wrath. I had chosen to create a god that was all love all the time. I had chosen to create a god that was more concerned with my happiness than with my holiness. I had chosen to create a god that wanted me to be comfortable and successful. The result was that for most of my life I had lived a life that was completely self-centered rather than a life that was God-centered. As I read this book and the many passages of Scripture within it, my presuppositions were challenged and that was not a comfortable thing at all.

Scripture is clear that God is not to be trifled with. In Psalm 103:19 the psalmist makes the point that God is all powerful and rules over everything: ***“The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.”*** The word ***“established”*** that is used here is translated from the Hebrew to mean “to give permanence to.” God’s throne, His kingdom unlike every single human kingdom, will never come to an end. This verse also points out that ***“His sovereignty rules over all.”*** That word ***“sovereignty”*** is translated to mean “dominion.” He ***“rules over all”*** which means exactly what it says; He governs over all things in absolute power and dominion.

In the above mentioned book Steven Lawson says, ***“Who we believe God is impacts every area of our lives – our attitudes, priorities, choices, and even our destiny.”*** When we have a low view of God and His power, our lives reflect that and unfortunately this is what is happening in far too many churches today. Many of us then have turned over only certain parts of our lives because the fact is we don’t completely trust God because we do not in the words of Steven Lawson have a “high view” of Him and who He is.

Steven Lawson writes in the first chapter of his book: “There can be no subject more life changing than God, and there is no greater determinative factor in how you live your life than a true, right knowledge of who God really is.” This coming Sunday here at Calvary

Baptist Church our new members Sunday school class is starting a study on this very subject. I want to invite you to come and join us at 9:30am as we begin this journey. My prayer and hope is that we will all be changed and that we will have a “right knowledge of who God really is.”

If you have any questions about what you have read today please contact me at pastotra@centurylink.net. You also may contact me on Facebook or on Twitter at @Adamspastor. You also may contact me here at Calvary Baptist Church at 970-824-5222.