

Foundation Study #7: MAN

What do the following verses say about man?

1) Genesis 2:7

Man was created by God (Psalm 95:6; 100:3; Isaiah 42:5; 45:12). God created humans from the material earth. He gave life through His own breath. Human beings are not the product of randomness, chance, mutation, or evolution but rather the work of the creator God Himself. God's creation of the first man (Adam) extends to every human being (Luke 12:7). Each person is a deliberate, intentional, purposeful, planned providential creation by God (Psalm 139:13-16). No one is a mistake, surprise, or unplanned.

2) Genesis 1:27

Man is created in the image of God (Genesis 5:1,2; 1 Corinthians 11:7; Colossians 3:10). Only man reflects the nature of God. Only human beings share certain characteristics with God. In simple terms the image of God can be seen in Matthew 22:37, *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."* Only man possesses a heart (the ability to volitionally love), soul (an eternal being), and mind (free will, conscience and imagination) that can be all be directed towards worshipping the one true God.

3) John 5:28,29

Man is created to exist eternally (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:36; Acts 24:15). Depending upon his choice in this life, man either spends eternity in the presence of God or absent from God in a very real place called Hell. A place of isolation and suffering and from which there is no escape or return (Luke 16:19-31).

4) 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Man is composed of soul, spirit, and body. Man is both material (body) and immaterial (soul and spirit) in nature. The material is flesh and bones. It is temporal, designed to live decades at most (Psalm 90:10). The immaterial is spirit and soul. The two are separate (Hebrews 4:12). The spirit of man is the center of various emotions and activities. These include thinking, remembering, humility, grief, jealousy, pride, and sorrow (1 Corinthians 2:11). The soul of man is his very being. *"Man is considered to possess a spirit but to be a soul"* (Charles Ryrie). The soul is the focus of salvation (1 Peter 1:9; 2:25) and is designed to live forever. Where a soul resides for eternity (with or apart from God) is based upon belief in Jesus Christ in this life (Mark 8:36; John 3:36).

5) Romans 3:23

Man is sinful. Man's sinfulness is transmitted by Adam's sin (Romans 5:12), obtained at the point of conception (Psalm 51:5) and applies to everyone (1 Kings 8:46; Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10). Man naturally sins because of his sin nature. Man's sin nature is independent of environment or surroundings. Man's sinfulness envelopes his entire being. Man is not basically good but wholly sinful (Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 5:9). Those who justify their depraved state by referring to themselves as "basically good" are invited to compare themselves with God's standard of "good" in Exodus 20:3-17. Those who deny their sin are calling God and themselves liars (1 John 1:8).

6) **Romans 5:18**

Man's sinfulness brings judgment. God's punishment of man's sin is justified by man's chosen sinful lifestyle (Ephesians 2:3), his stubborn refusal to repent (Romans 2:5), and his unbelief (John 3:18). Man's sinfulness results in becoming enslaved by sin's power (Titus 3:3). Man's pending judgment makes salvation necessary. Note the term "must" in Acts 4:12. Humanity is in desperate need of salvation. Apart from salvation offered through Jesus Christ man is hopeless and doomed to an eternal state apart from God (Ephesians 2:12).

7) **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

Man can conceive of God. Man is created in such a manner as to be able to think of a creator being. God has placed the essence of Himself (eternity) within man. This, along with the external evidence of Himself through creation (Romans 1:20) and blessings (Acts 14:17), comprises both the internal and external evidence of God given to all men.

8) **Joshua 24:15**

Man can choose God (Job 2:14; Proverbs 1:29; Ecclesiastes 9:3). Man is created with the ability to make a personal, individual decision about his relationship with God. The decision to choose God is available to anyone, anywhere, anytime (Romans 10:13). Some refuse to choose God in face of amazing circumstances (Revelation 9:20; 16:9,11). Others refuse out of sheer stubbornness (Romans 2:5).

9) **Psalms 4:7**

Man can cherish God (Psalm 5:11; 16:11; 19:8; 20:5). Man is designed to experience great joy in personal relationship with God. God has created man to be able to consider Him, choose Him, and enjoy Him.

10) **Hebrews 4:13**

Man is accountable to God. All humanity must give an account to the Creator. Some will do so in a state of unbelief and will be judged to spend eternity apart from the presence of God (Revelation 20:11-15). Others will do so in a state of belief and give account of their life as followers of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). The first judgment is unto eternity. The second is a time of rewards. Salvation is not in play at this judgment due to the finished and secure work of Christ upon the cross.

What was the most significant verse in this study to you? Explain.