

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 the first man from the immaterial 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. Each person is a deliberate, intentional, purposeful, planned providential creation by God (Psalm 139:13-16). No one is a mistake, surprise or unplanned. Everyone is incomparably valued (Luke 12:7).

2. Genesis 1:27

Man is created in the image of God (Genesis 5:1,2, Colossians 3:10, 1 Corinthians 11:7). Only man possesses 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), a soul (an eternal being) and a mind (free will, conscience and imagination). We are created that way so we can enjoy and worship God.

3. John 5:28,29

Man is created to exist eternally (Daniel 12:2, Matthew 25:46, 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 to two substances; the material and the immaterial. The material refers to the physical body. It is designed to live for decades at most (Psalm 90:10). The immaterial includes the soul, spirit, heart, conscience and mind and will. The soul is the center of emotional and spiritual experiences. The spirit is also the center of various traits, emotions and activities. The heart is the seat of intellectual, emotional, volitional and spiritual life. The conscience is an internal witness. The mind includes the faculties of perceiving and understanding. The will is the internal drive.¹

Man is like a diamond with its many facets. Those facets are not separate entities, yet they reflect various aspects of the whole. They may serve similar or overlapping

¹ Ryrie, Charles C. (1999-01-11). Basic Theology: A Popular, Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth (p. 225). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

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*functions, yet they are distinguishable. They are not parts; they are aspects, facets, faces of the whole.*²

5. Romans 3:23

Man is sinful. (Romans 3:10, Proverbs 20:9, 1 Kings 8:46, Ecclesiastes 7:20) Man's sin nature is the result of imputed sin as well as inherited sin. Imputed sin the transfer of Adam's sin nature to us (Romans 5:12). Inherited sin is the transmission of sin nature from parents to offspring. It occurs at conception (Psalm 51:5). Those who think themselves as basically good people are invited to compare themselves with the gold standard of good, the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17) Those that deny their sinfulness call themselves and God a liar (1 John 1:8). No matter how you look at it, we are hopelessly sinful and in desperate need of salvation (Jeremiah 17:9). *"We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet, at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."* — Timothy Keller

6. Romans 5:18

Man's sinfulness results in judgement. God's judgment rests upon man because of our sinful lifestyle (Ephesians 2:3), our stubborn refusal to repent (Romans 2:5) and our unbelief. (John 3:18) Man's sinfulness results in becoming enslaved by sin's power. (Titus 3:3) Man's pending judgement makes salvation necessary. Note the term *must* in Acts 4:12. Humanity is in desperate need of salvation. Apart from the 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), comprise both the internal and external evidence of God given to all men.

8. Joshua 24:15

Man can choose God (Proverbs 1:29, Job 2:14, 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 the face of amazing circumstances (Revelation 9:20, 16:9,11). Others refuse out of sheer stubbornness (Romans 2:5).

² Ryrie, Charles C. (1999-01-11). Basic Theology: A Popular, Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth (p. 225). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

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9. Psalm 95:6

Man can cherish God (Psalm 96:9, 100:2, 132:7, 138:2). Man can worship God. 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 worship Him.

10. Hebrews 4:13

Man is accountable to God. (Job 34:21, Psalm 33:13,14) All humanity must give an account to their 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).

What was the most meaningful verse in this study? Explain.