

# God's Work of Art

Psalm 139:13 - 16

## INTRODUCTION

Leonardo Da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Frank Gasparro.

What do these men have in common? They all created famous works of art.

While most of us will never own a work by Da Vinci, Picasso, Monet, or van Gogh; we all have owned a work by Gasparro.

Hopefully everyone received a penny when they came in this morning. Take it out and look at it.

Gasparro designed the images on the penny. All the pennies from 1959 through 2008 have his initials on them. If you look at the lower right of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the penny, you will see his initials, FG.

Because Gasparro created the penny, he loved it deeply. It was his. It has been told that Gasparro would share with cashiers that he designed the penny. He was also known for picking up pennies lying on the ground. He could not understand why someone would toss such a great work on the ground.

Gasparro loved the penny, because he designed it. Most people do not think a penny is worth much, but it was worth a lot to Frank Gasparro. His initials were on it.

## SCRIPTURE

- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

## I. God is the Creator of Life

- 1) Verse 13 - You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Charles Spurgeon on "The Treasury of David" The word "reins" signifies the kidneys, which by the Hebrews were supposed to be the seat of the desires and longings; but perhaps it indicates here the most hidden and vital portion of the man; this God doth not only inspect, and visit, but it is his own; he is as much at home there as a landlord on his own estate, or a proprietor in his own house.

This is similar to how we use the word "heart."

It is more than just genes, chromosomes, arms, legs, etc. It speaks not only to our spiritual capacity, but also our morality and our will.

He knew us before we were born – our personality, our gifts, our quirks, and most importantly, **our potential**, His plans for us.

- 2) Verse 15 - I was made...  
I was woven together....

- a. God is the Creator; David has done nothing.
- b. David had no input.
- c. David didn't request certain personality traits or attributes.
- d. David was totally passive in creation.

- 3) Jeremiah 1:4-5

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. "

Just as an architect "sees" the building he/she is designing or the potter can see the bowl, vase, or cup to be created from a lump of clay, God sees the finished product of His creation.

## II. He Created Us In HIS Own Image

Genesis 1:26-27

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

### 1. God is distinct from His creation.

a) Some mistakenly teach that God is in the flowers, the trees, the wind, or all nature.

b) New Age mysticism is really just a revival of old age paganism and pantheism.

c) Paul warns the Romans against this in Rom. 1:21-25.

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

d) We really had better not dare to worship the creation nor confuse it with the creator.

e) Rather, we should enjoy and manage God's splendid handiwork, but we must exalt and worship Him alone above that which He spoke into existence.

2. Second, humanity is distinct from all other created life in that we are made in the image of God.

- a) The Bible is clear that God first created the animal kingdom, then he created man in His own image.
- b) This does not mean that man was made in the physical image of god, for we know that the Bible teaches that God is spirit. (John 4:24)

<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

- c) This does mean that the immaterial part of man was created in God's likeness.
- d) This is the part of humanity that sets him apart from all other earthly creatures.

3. We are made in the image of God in three ways:

- a) **Intellect** – humankind alone is able to conceptualize that there is a God.
- b) **Emotions**: Man has the complex emotions of love, hate, anger, joy, compassion, etc.
- c) **Will**: When God fashioned humankind he didn't want robots. He gave man a will which he could exercise in one of two ways: To be obedient to the will of God, or to rebel against God and exert self-will.

III. He Created Us for A Purpose

Matthew 28: 18-20

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**TO REACH, TO WIN, TO DISCIPLE AND TO SEND** that is our purpose taken from the passage we read in Matthew 28. It is the call of God on each of our lives.

How do we accomplish our purpose?

First, we need to strengthen what we have. Acts 16:5 states, "So the churches were being strengthened in the faith and were increasing in numbers daily."

This begs the question, "How do I get my faith strengthened?"

The answer is simple. **Spend time daily in God's word.** Not only reading but also meditating on what you have read. Allow God to speak to you through His word.

What is our purpose, what is the call of God on your life, where do you fit into the mission and ministry of the church? God adds when our faith is strengthened. Part of that faith is believing we can step out and accomplish the impossible through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working within us.

## **CONCLUSION**

In Psalm 8, David confessed to God, "When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You set in place, what is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him?"

Because David was humbled by the greatness of God, he was confronted with his own sinfulness and fragility. And because He understood God's greatness, he was in awe of God's goodness--blown away that God thought of him, that God loved him. The more we grasp His greatness, the more we appreciate His goodness. The closer we are to the Lord, the more we see the vast difference between His holiness and our depravity, His ability and our weakness. And yet our hearts are melted as we also find that He loves us.

The heavens are the works of His fingers--His fingers! Not His whole being or even His hand. He simply finger painted the sunset, the beautiful sky, the stars and the moon that brighten the night. Yet He remembers man. When we think of people, we often think of them because we need them. But God never thinks of us because He needs us. He thinks of us because He has chosen to be loving and good to us. The God who can paint the entire sky with His finger does not need us for anything. The God who creatively spoke the world into existence does not need our input or advice. He is not deficient and in need of our help. He only thinks of us because He is good. He thinks of you because He wants to think of you, because He has chosen

to be good to you. You are His creation, and He has set His affection toward you.

Just as Gasparro crafted the penny as his masterpiece, God crafted humanity. He has marked us as His own forever by His Spirit. We are His. Though we feel small in His presence, He thinks of us. And in His goodness, He sent His Son to rescue us.