




October 2017 From the Pastor 

God's Gift to Man

This month I will be preaching on marriage. As I thought about this I thought of a key passage on marriage, Genesis 2:18-25.

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said,



*"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."*

*²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.
(Genesis 2:18-25 ESV)*

There is a lot I could say about this passage, and I will say much of it during the sermons. However, I want to take time to talk about the gift that God gave man, a wife. Think about what Adam was going

through as God interacted with him.

God saw Adam needed help, so God brought all the animals to him that He had created for Adam to name them all. However, none of these animals were fit to help Adam. One could read into this story that God was surprised Adam didn't find someone to help him within the animals He brought to him, but that would be a misreading of the passage.

The passage tells us God brought all the animals to Adam, and it was Adam who did not find a helper. God knew this was going to be the case. God didn't do this for His benefit; He did it to teach Adam a lesson. He wanted Adam to learn how important the gift was that He was about to bring to Adam.

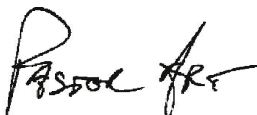
God put Adam to sleep and performed an incredible operation on Him where He took a rib from Adam and created a woman. He then brought the woman to Adam.

When God created her, He called her a helper. The Hebrew word for helper is *'ezer*. Consider what that word means:

The most distinctive use of 'ezer with this meaning is the way in which it is used in Gen 2:18, 20. The Lord God declares that it is not fitting for man to be alone, but that he should be provided with an 'ezer. It need not necessarily imply divine assistance, and the context rather suggests it is used in a general way to denote mutual assistance in the marriage relationship by one who corresponds to man.¹

Basically, God knew man needed help. Without women, men will not make it. God created marriage, because men needed the close attention of women. God's gift to man was the "helper" God knew man needed. Don't forget that. Your wife is special, she is probably the reason you have survived so far. Thank God for her.

In Him and for His glory,



¹*'ezer*, Allan M. Harman, *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*: Volume 3. 379. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, © 1997.