

December 6, 2020

## God and Human Beings

### Psalm 8:1-9

Last year, event-listing pages for cities around the country were bursting with festivals, Santa visits, holiday dinners, and special sales. Businesses were planning lavish parties, families were preparing for large gatherings, individuals were scooping up tickets to the *Nutcracker* and *A Christmas Carol* performances. Life was busy. In 2020, things are less hectic, but there are still opportunities to be merry and bright.

Christmas is coming, and the holiday spirit is alive and well. After a year of trials and anxiety, many people are looking for a reason to celebrate, no matter how creative they have to be. Denton FarmPark in North Carolina hosts Country Christmas Train every year where visitors can enjoy a stroll, shop with local vendors, and ride a themed Christmas train. This year, the farm is hosting an alternate event. "Instead of people walking through historic buildings and riding the Handy Dandy Railroad to witness the live nativity, the park staff came up with a drive-thru event for the holidays."<sup>1</sup> Karen Miller, the general manager said, "We're very happy we can do something this year. . . . We are happy we can do this, and we are keeping Christ in Christmas with Christmas on the Farm."<sup>2</sup>

God made each of us in God's image. We have been set apart from the rest of creation as being only slightly less than divine. That alone is a reason to celebrate. The student book author writes, "To be created in God's image means to be in a particular relationship with God, a communion with God."<sup>3</sup> God has brought us through the trials of this year; God has been with us every step of the way. Now, as we celebrate the season of Advent, let us strive to be closer to God. Christmas is a few short weeks away, and while it will look different this year, the reason for the season remains the same. "Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!" (Psalm 8:9).

1. How will Christmas be different for you and your loved ones this year?
2. What does it mean to you to be made in God's image?
3. In what ways can you take this less-hectic holiday season to focus more on God?

Rachel Mullen is the features and acquisitions editor for *Christian Living in the Mature Years Magazine*.

<sup>1</sup>From [the-dispatch.com/story/news/2020/11/17/davidson-county-farm-park-host-christmas-farm-event/6309800002/](https://the-dispatch.com/story/news/2020/11/17/davidson-county-farm-park-host-christmas-farm-event/6309800002/).

<sup>2</sup>From [the-dispatch.com/story/news/2020/11/17/davidson-county-farm-park-host-christmas-farm-event/6309800002/](https://the-dispatch.com/story/news/2020/11/17/davidson-county-farm-park-host-christmas-farm-event/6309800002/).

<sup>3</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2020-2021, by Taylor Mills (Cokesbury, 2020); page 12.