Sermon: **What is man that you think of him; mere man, that you care for him?** (Psalm 8.4, cf Hebrews 2.6,)

Program updates (eg gmail) are ‘better’ but are hard work to sort out; we prefer the known & imperfect.

That is also true of ourselves. We are not perfect; often it seems preferable to be the known imperfect than the ‘better’ we could be. TEXT.

There is something glorious about humanity. Think how we have moulded the planet, discovered truth, explored. Think of the improvements to mutual care, reduction of inequality (125 yrs suffrage in NZ).

Hebrews, after extolling JC (1.1-4), humanity set to be rulers (8), Genesis – made in image of God, and made stewards of creation! Wow! TEXT.

Yet, the reality of humanity is that we are not yet rulers (8). We are aware of our sin, and are poor stewards.

Socially there is still much prejudice, institutional racism, greed, thirst for power, etc.

Individually we might feel unworthy and unloved/unlovable. TEXT.

(11): **both [Jesus] and those who are made pure all have the same Father**.

All very well, but how can we be made pure? And what has Jesus got to do with it?

* God speaks through Jesus (2)
* Jesus is the exact likeness of God (3)
* Jesus achieves the reconciliation: **it was only right that God… should make Jesus perfect through suffering, in order to bring many sons to share his glory** (10); **he should die for everyone** (9).
* Jesus brings salvation: **Jesus is the one who leads them to salvation** (10).
* Jesus cleanses us: **[Jesus] purifies people from their sins** (11)

Ever noticed that folk you respect most don’t allow their flaws to stop us from seeing something of God!

The deeper truth is that there is something exalted about humanity, not negated but affirmed by the cross.

It is our willingness to be like Jesus through sacrifice for others that makes us exalted.

TEXT. God sees Jesus in us! We don’t need a perfect faith, but faith in a perfect God, through Jesus.