

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4: “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

"One Lord!"

I got a bit ahead of my titles with Roger this week, so I need to point out that this morning we deal with One Lord and we will come to one God and Father of all in a few weeks.

- **In Revelation, it is Jesus who is proclaimed to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!**
- **Revelation 19 says, “He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Jesus is the One Lord here in Eph 4.**

In our modern age of tolerance and relative truth, there seems to be nothing that triggers folks more than for a Christian to say that Jesus is the Way, the True and the Light. Having folks believe there are many ways to God, or even the gods, is not a new concept and if we think back to our series on Acts [*hard to believe it have been ten years!*], we should remember that presenting the One Lord was just what the Apostle Paul did when facing the Greek culture of His day.

In Acts 17, the Apostle Paul comes to Athens and after being provoked by their blatant idolatry he uses their own ignorance to introduce them to the God of the Scriptures: The One Lord! He does so by presenting God in a way that might seem a little strange to many modern Christians who have been compromised when it comes to the early chapters of Genesis.

If you have no confidence in the history given in those chapters you would not begin where Paul begins...

- **By introducing our One Lord as the “God, who made the world and everything in it.”**

As most of you know, understanding and knowing God as our Creator is a subject that we address often here at Church of the King... We do so for three reasons:

- **A proper understanding of this doctrine is foundational to a right understanding of the Gospel, which is why Paul begins there.**
- **The doctrine of God as our Creator is under vicious assault today in our modern world [*just question evolution & you will know what I mean.*]**
- **This doctrine is essential if we are to have the joy and comfort that God promises to His faithful people**

Believing those early chapters of Genesis give us an account of real history in a real way is foundational to the Gospel and our comfort.

Genesis is the Book of beginnings and that is where we get our foundational understanding of God, His creation, the fall of man, and the plan of salvation.

- **We learn of the wickedness of sin and of course the overcoming love and justice of our sovereign God.**

We read the creation account often here at Church of the King because we believe it is important to be familiar with it... In all of its simplicity and depth!

If you ever have doubts about whether God made the world in six literal 24 hour days, just ask one of the young children what took place in the beginning after we finish reading the actual Genesis account!

- **They will not find any “gaps” in the text!**

- They will know nothing of long ages or framework theology to make room for billions of years.
- Such things are only found by those Christians who are trying to fit God's revelation into the secular world's understanding of history! [*secular folks just reject Genesis!*]

To understand why such things have infiltrated the Church we need to understand why prominent secular men have lead people to believe that the earth is BILLIONS of years old?

Think about it this way... Why do we believe in a young earth? Because God revealed in Genesis His account of how He created the world in six days along with very specific genealogies that give us an age of approximately six thousand years.

- So, why must the secular humanists believe in a very old earth?

Because materialistic evolution needs a LOT of time to accomplish all they claim that evolution has done: In a very real sense, time is their one lord!

So, there you have two different world views with two very different beginnings...

- A good question to ask is who has "the evidence" on their side?

From a limited human standpoint there is actually evidence for both positions and such evidences each have their strengths and weaknesses...

- But neither side can "test" what happened in the past in the lab or the world. [*mention the fossils*]

You can spend hours and hours going back and forth with the debate, but notice that each side is bringing their preconceived beliefs to the table: One presenting the One Lord and the other only time & chance.

- As Christians we point to evidences for a young earth and question those that say the earth is very old: We do so because God has revealed how the world was created and basically when!
- Secular humanists point to the evidences for a very old earth & question those that say the earth is young because they NEED an old earth to keep God out of history & science.

Here is where we as Christians need to understand how this battle of our day impacts the Gospel & our comfort:

- IF God lied, or was even deceptive, about how or when He created the world, then why should we trust Him about anything else that is revealed in the Bible?

Those who try to make peace with the world with a compromise, begin by questioning the clear reading of the early chapters of Genesis, but then they soon struggle to explain how a real Adam & Eve actually lived. Then they have no basis for believing that man fell into sin which brought forth death and destruction: Where did evil come from?

The next victim of the slippery slope is the flood as it is presented and of course there is no reason to trust all those detailed genealogies. Next up is whether we can even trust the actual text of the Old Testament & even know who the real authors were!

- By the time we get to the New Testament on this wrong path, we have lost all basis for needing the authentic Gospel, so Jesus becomes just a great man who has SO much to teach us by His great example!
- The exact opposite of His being the One Lord Who is the Way the Truth and the Light!

I have provided some helpful illustrations from Answers in Genesis to encourage further discussion and study, as I did before: They demonstrate the nature of the battle and the conflicting world views, especially how both sides view death. [see the end of this file]

- **IF we want real comfort and real understanding in troubled times... Then we must begin where the Apostle Paul did with these Greek skeptics:**
- **With the One Lord who made the world and everything in it!**

I want us to understand this morning that the New Testament not only presents our One Lord as Creator...

- **But that He is presented as the Creator who made the world just as we are told in Genesis chapter one!**

Both Matthew and Luke use the genealogies of Genesis to establish the historic timeline of history for the coming of Jesus. John in his Gospel begins right where Paul does here in Athens:

John 1:1 “ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

Sadly today many look to these famous words to prove the divinity of Jesus as the 2nd Person of the Trinity, but then turn right around and look to evolution or science to explain how things were actually made in the material world... Failing to comprehend who Jesus really is and what He has done!

John’s pointed language not only confronts the wisdom of the world, like the Greek thinkers Paul preached to, but he clearly points us right back to the early chapters of Genesis. Because of sin, darkness has descended over the creation & God wants to take us from darkness back into the light:

Colossians 1:13 **“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins... All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”**

- **Jesus, as the One Lord, is the creator and sustainer of ALL things!**

Does God give us any information about how Jesus made all things? Yes, He does, right there in the early chapters of Genesis! I want to argue this morning that it should give us great comfort as Christians and rightly strike the fear of God in the hearts of those who hear the Gospel presented.

- **IF we try to change the plain meaning of those early chapters in Genesis, we dilute both our comfort & our witness!**
- **Why am I so adamant about this?**
- **Why do I think we should all be so adamant about this?**

Because this is exactly how the Bible deals with these important chapters!

Sadly, the debate is often focused just on what the words can or cannot mean here there Genesis.

What is more important for us to see is how the creation of the world in six literal days demonstrates both the power and the creativity of our covenant God. Yes, we will be shunned, ridiculed, and laughed at today if we say that we affirm the historical truth of Genesis:

- **We must affirm what God affirms**

Rather than ignoring these important chapters, rather than making excuses or coming up with clever schemes to make it say things it does not say...

We must learn to see all of richness of what God has revealed about Himself as the Creator in those early chapters of Genesis, and the Nature of what He has done!

It is such a simple and yet profound portion of the Scriptures.

- We need to begin to open our eyes and ears to all that God desires to teach us and show us!

For example, in Genesis 1 we see not only the power of God but much about His character and creativity as well. The works and patterns of these seven days are seen from Genesis to Revelation, IF we have eyes to see. Paul is surrounded here in Athens by TONS of idols, none of which could hear nor see nor even move... So he tells them that they need to meet the One Lord who made the world and everything in it!

Not only can God hear, He made the ear, not only can God see, He made the eye, not only can God move, but all the movements of history are under His control:

- Jesus as the One Lord, is the creator and sustainer of everything.

It would take at least a hundred sermons to do a complete survey of the Scriptures where we are told to be comforted by seeing our One Lord as the creator:

Psalms 121:2 is a good example: “My help comes from Jehovah, who made heaven and earth.”

Or as we sing each week after we hear that our sins are forgiven from Psalm 134: May the Lord bless you from Zion, He who made heaven & earth! [*mention the movement of our hands*]

- Each time we see this type of reference it should give us great comfort because we can reflect back to Genesis remembering the power and creativity of the One Lord who is our only real comfort!

IF, on the other hand, we see the early chapters of Genesis as only nice poetry or great literature, wondering just how long those days or ages really are, or how they relate to modern secular science, we have undermined the very comfort God desires to give us.

Yes we will be accused by our modern world of being simplistic at best and ignorant or anti-science at worst if we affirm the plain meaning of the early chapters of Genesis.

- But just as we can see in that simple illustration from Answers in Genesis, those who reject the truths revealed in the early chapters of Genesis truly do love death, because they have made death eternal.

In contrast we must join with Paul in challenging people to know the the One Lord, Who made the world and everything in it and to remind them as Paul did that this is important because “He is Lord of heaven and earth!”

Standing on this solid foundation, we can have real answers to the great questions of life that everyone wrestles with in some way:

- Where did everything come from and why is man special.
- Why is there evil in the world and can there ever be true justice.
- Is there hope for me in a Savior, the seed of the woman to crush my enemies head?

We also find comfort by knowing the truth about other troubling and controversial issues in our day:

Knowing that God created only males and females in His image helps us engage with gender identity. We know how many genders there are and how sin can make it very confusing.

We know there is only one human race and that all the tribes and nations are descended from Adam and Eve because Paul declares to those in Athens that the One Lord, “made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth” so again our racial divisions are the result of sin and not design.

Thus when we think about all the debates and battles raging today with regard to race and genders it is proper to say that only the Gospel can solve these problems.

There will be those who say that is too simplistic and yet when we begin to understand Who the One Lord truly is and what He has done, it not only helps us to understand those issues, but gives of the history behind them and the richness of the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus commanded us to preach to all men and women of every race bringing unity where the world has only division!

We see this clearly in the way the Apostle Paul concludes that message:

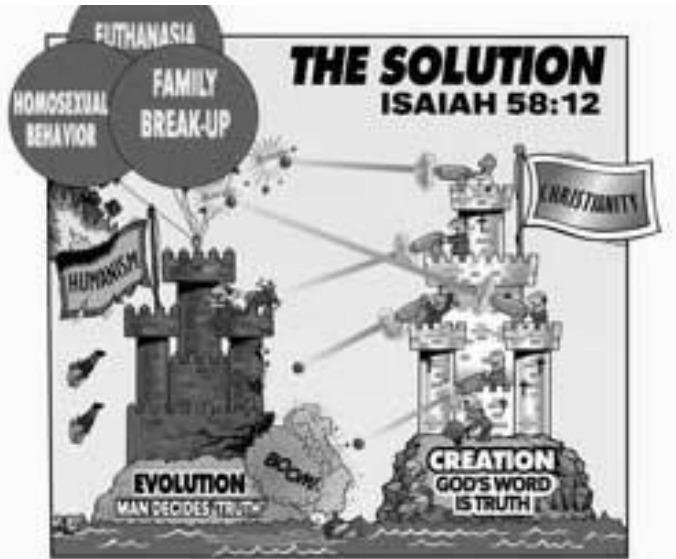
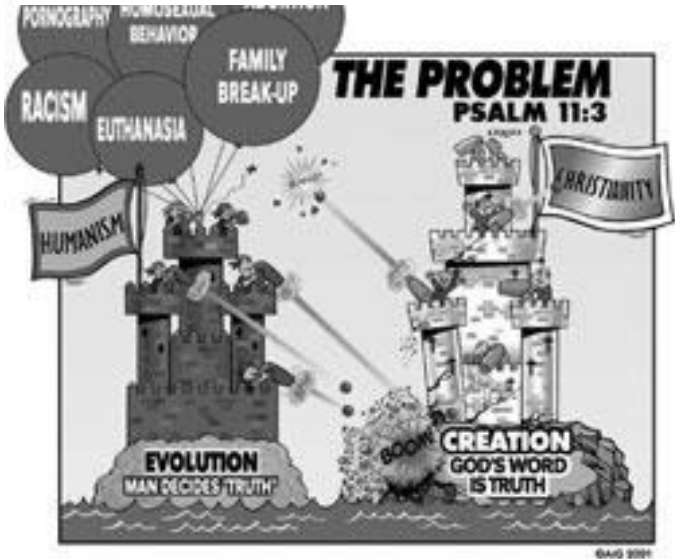
Acts 17: “30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Communion Meditation: Proverbs 9:1

**“ Wisdom has built her house,
She has hewn out her seven pillars;
2 She has slaughtered her meat,
She has mixed her wine,
She has also furnished her table.
3 She has sent out her maidens,
She cries out from the highest places of the city, 4 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" As for him
who lacks understanding, she says to him,
"Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed.
Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding.”**

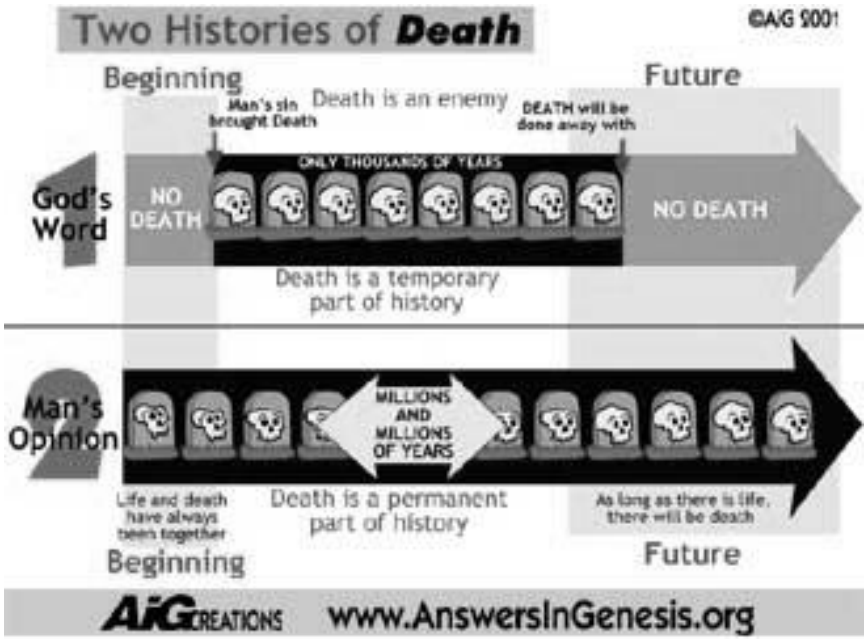
"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matthew 7:24-27



*If the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?
Psalm 11:3*

*Those from among you ---shall build the old waste places;
You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And
you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach,
The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In. Isaiah 58:12*



"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."
Genesis 1:31a

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

"The last enemy that will be destroyed is death,,"
"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
I Corinthians 15:26;54-57