

V.O.C. July 2017
Rev. W. denHollander

July 9, 2017: God is Creator & Father

Dear Listeners,

Last week, dear listeners, I spoke to you about God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth. During this glorious summer month I wish to draw your attention to the Maker of all the wonderful sights and sceneries you may come across in your travels, walks, and holiday journeys. In parks and places of interest your eyes must be opened to this reality that the Maker of it all is the Almighty God, the Creator of all things visible and invisible. Today I would like to expand on what I introduced last week already, namely that the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, is also the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world! Yes, by faith in Him, the only Saviour, God will even be *your* God and *your* Father! As I mentioned last week already, God showed His love in His work of creation and He wanted His children to share in this love. Hence, when these children fell into sin, He so loved this world He created that He gave His only Son to save this world! In His Son He revealed Himself as your God and your Father, by faith in Jesus Christ, His Son!

Indeed, dear listener, this is how close God's work of *creation* and *recreation* are related in God's Word. Hence the church confesses God as Creator of heaven and earth as the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ! For the sake of Christ His Son, God the Father, the Almighty Maker of heaven and earth, is the God and *Father* of everyone who believes in Him and confesses Him! Thus we may also speak of our *Father's* work of creation! In Him we trust, because we know Him as the Almighty Creator, and also as the Father of Christ. In fact, as Jesus testified when He was on earth: He came to earth to make Him known to us! He dwelt among us as the one sent by the Father to restore to the Father those whom the Father had given Him. He is the Word incarnate, the Word who came to live in the flesh and among us. God the Father had created all things by Him, through Him, and for Him; in His love! Hence, after He had finished His work He assured us that by faith in Him, God would be *our* God and *our* Father, in love! So our faith in God's work of *creation* is related very closely to His work of *recreation* in Jesus Christ! We may know God as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is so mighty that He created heaven and earth! It's for our comfort that we may know Him this way. In the midst of this fallen and sinful world, this broken life, we may trust Him in His power!

Do you see, dear listeners, how enriching and comforting this is when we confess God the Father, the Almighty God and Creator, as the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ? In Jesus Christ the everlasting God has come very near! At one time He created the world through the Word; today He upholds the universe by the Lord Jesus Christ, His Word of power. As the apostle Paul shows in 2 Cor. 4:6, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." By faith in Him, therefore, and for

the sake of Christ, He will be *your* God and *your* Father! Who? The Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth!

The Almighty Creator, dear listeners, is at the same time God the Father, *Abba*, the word denoting the name used by a small child. The Lord Jesus also made Him known as the Shepherd of Psalm 23, who, as Isaiah portrays Him, “tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.” His Almighty power is the power of His love; the Lord of hosts, the heavenly hosts of myriads and myriads of angels, is at the same time the *Father* who dearly loves His children. He channelled His love to us in the love of His Son! Already to Adam and Eve He revealed Himself as the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is important to maintain that reality today, in a time in which the actual, historic existence of Adam and Eve is doubted. If we do that, we rob ourselves of our only comfort again! For the Son of God became man, the *second Adam*, in whom God not only spoke His Word of creation but also gave His promises of recreation!

By faith in Him, dear listeners, we confess Him not only as the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ but also as a *faithful* Father. In Christ He has shown His faithfulness, for in Him all His promises are reliable, trustworthy, also the promise of recreation, of the restoration to son-ship. Although Adam was called the son of God, he rejected God as Father; in the Lord Jesus Christ, however, we may be *restored as sons of God*; by faith in Him! Yes, that’s the gospel as the evangelist John puts it, “Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become *children of God* – children born not of natural descent, not of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” Thus you become first-fruits of a new creation!

On this faithfulness of the eternal Father, dear listeners, you can build your hope! In spite of the fall into sins, God does have *sons*. In Romans 8 the apostle Paul speaks about the creation groaning as in the pains of childbirth, and we think of disasters, catastrophes, the suffering among men and beasts due to the fall into sin and the corruption of this world. Then Paul adds, however, “Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we are saved!” So when you hear the groaning due to birth pains, you know this new life is coming. That’s how Christ comforted His disciples, when He said, “Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near!”

Is that not sufficient, dear listeners, for our trust in God, the eternal Father of the Lord Jesus Christ?! In Christ, by faith in Him, God wants to be *your* God and *your* Father, who is using this “Voice of the Church” to break Himself a course *to* your life and *through* your life (no matter what the struggles, the setbacks, the sorrow), a course to the future! Yes, He wants to do so in the *church* where this gospel is proclaimed from week to week, where He calls *you too* in order that *you* may be restored to *son-ship*, in His love for you in Jesus Christ! Isn’t it so that you lose your bearings every time you meet with troubles, struggles, and suffering? Then you need to be reminded of this *gospel*, strengthened in your faith, which He does by His Word and Spirit through the *preaching* of the gospel as it is proclaimed every Sunday *in His faithful churches*! Go there and hear

this Word for the reassurance of your faith that He wants to be *your* God and Father too, this Almighty Creator of heaven and earth!

Through this "Voice of the Church," dear listener, your attention was drawn to the eternal God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was there at the beginning of the tumultuous history of this world. He is *still* there, and in full *control*, as Moses the servant of God who wrote the creation account, professed where he said, "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." [Deut. 33:26f] No one who believes in Him will be put to shame! He is the same, yesterday, today, and for ever! Confess Him, therefore, in word and song, "In God, our heavenly Father, I believe - Almighty Ruler, all victorious; Creator of both heaven and earth, Whose holy Name is great and glorious!" Thank you, dear listener, for being with us in this broadcast of the "Voice of the Church," and tune in again next week when I wish to share with you what God's Word reveals about God, the Creator, in His work of Providence, i.e. in His eternal power upholding all things He created!