

## **His plan, His purpose!**

Hello again dear listeners,

Many of the attitudes and ideas of our present world can best be summarized by a very ancient statement made in the fifth century BC. A Greek philosopher named Protagoras said, “Man is the measure of all things.” In other words, humanity is the standard, the epicentre and focus of the universe. Today’s society quite blatantly and wrongheadedly considers humanity to be in control of its own destiny with no outside forces or power telling us what to do. And if you should challenge such thinking you are considered fool-hearted and out of step with modern times – especially if you tell people you believe in a Creator God who made the heavens and the earth! Can your opinions be taken seriously if you still believe that in 2018! Maybe you yourself questioned the existence of God and said something like, “I’d like to think that if God exists he wouldn’t allow things to be a messed-up as they are. How can an all-powerful God allow my best friend to get killed in a traffic accident or my mom to die of cancer? Why does he let people suffer with incredible pain if he is so good and great as Christians confess and claim him to be?”

It’s truly remarkable that in a society that is very quick to blurt out things against God, the most common exclamation that adults and kids will use when alarmed or terrified is, “Oh my God”! Why don’t we see the inconsistency? Well, it all has to do with perspective. When I consider myself to be the measure of all things I will have little regard for what is beyond me. I may think myself to be broadminded when, in fact, my views are narrow-minded. I am not thinking outside the box of our own reality – I lack telescopic vision. What do I mean by that? The word “telescopic” comes from a root word meaning: to observe far in space and time. So when I say, “I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth” I am broadening my scope to something beyond me. I align my life with what is beyond me in space and time, to enjoy the awesome beauty God has placed all around me and above me. I draw near and enjoy the works of God in his creation. I glory in the works of his hands and do so in an intensely personal way acknowledging him to be the one who has drawn near to his people with his salvation. Yes, from this perspective it is consistent to look into the heavens and to exclaim, “Oh my God!” This is the work of my God. I can be confident that he who takes care of the macro of the universe will also look after the micro of my life. The more I look at the intricacy of creation, the human body and the celestial bodies, the more I marvel at how everything is woven together amazingly. It will encourage me to take good care of my body and to be good stewards of the world in which I live.

So rather than criticize the ways of the Lord let us join the myriads of people and angels who have and continue to praise him as the Almighty Creator. Let your exclamations be in line with your beliefs and perspective. God did not make a mess of things but we did. The further our reach the more junk we leave behind – we do it in our own environment, in the oceans and in the last years our junk is also orbiting around us in space. The only one who truly has the power to do something about it is the one who has the masterplan – who created it all and who has promised to restore creation to its former glory. It is for this reason that the Bible ties the knowledge of creation to the knowledge of salvation. The two are woven together as inseparable. What Christ makes known in his person and work clarifies why the Lord made this earth and why he created people. He made this earth as a place where human beings could live, work and serve each other. God did not create the world to be chaotic or its resources to be plundered. He is a God of order, structure, harmony and beauty.

The study of God's creation whether that be in bird-watching, fishing on a lake, watching beautiful sunsets, observing constellations of stars, wildlife or the beauty of a landscape, is to be done with an open mind: there is One who is beyond us who designed all things in the most amazing way. Whether we study the intricacies of the human body or rock formations we cannot separate that from observing God. Confessing God as Creator unites parents and children. As a parent you can stand there and admire the beauty of God's

creation with your arm around your son or daughter and you can say with a sigh of contentment, “Wow! And to think that the amazing God who made all this is your God and my God. He promises to look after us. He has the power to take what is evil and to use it for good!”

When we go to work and use our creative skills our products are never made out of nothing. We work with materials. But God went about things differently. He created the raw materials, calling into existence the things that were not, simply by his word of power. “Let there be light,” and the lights of the world went on. With our smart home technology we can turn the lights on in our homes through an app on our phone. If you have an I-phone you just have to ask Siri and she will do it for you. But God did not turn the lights on through some app but by speaking! **Let there be** and the world was filled with vegetation and life. Let there be and there were animals, reptiles, fish, amphibians and birds. God's creative work was done perfectly. Everything was made in such a way that it would be able to function for the purpose God had made it. And the way he worked in creation, he also works with his people – giving new life, renewing, and shaping them so that their hearts are directed to his love.

This telescopic vision of confessing God as Creator will help and comfort you in your struggles. You may struggle with feelings of insignificance and self-doubt. You may ask questions such as, “What is the purpose of my life if I have to go through life the way I am now?” Such feelings and sentiments are not unknown to God but he teaches you to deal with them according to the manner in which he has made you. He who made you cares for you and will preserve your life no matter how rough the road may get or how many twists and turns it may take. What he calls you and me to do is to believe in his power and trust in his ability to look after us and provide us with salvation. Our sinful human minds cannot figure out how pain and sorrow can and will work together for our good. That's why it is so easy to revolt and say, “I can't take this any longer. I don't like what God is doing in my life!” But in faith, believing in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth the words of Romans 8:28 also weigh in as a very powerful confession. Since I believe in God and his power, “I know that all things work together for good for those who love Him, who are called according to his purpose.”

God says to us, “There is no need to challenge what I am doing. I made you and formed you to be who you are. All those intricate parts were assembled by me, your Father. You did not fall out of the blue sky. Who you are today was determined within my counsel, my plan, and my purpose.”

Yes, this is what we are saying when we confess, “I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” He who created me will also see to it that I am made an entirely new creation. The same Father who created the world will see to it that everything will be restored to its former glory in a new heaven and a new earth. How comforting it is to know that your past, present and future are in the hands of the Almighty king of creation. May God give you telescopic vision!

Have a good day!