

WHAT WE BELIEVE – God Creates

In this sermon series we are looking at *WHAT* we believe about God... *SO WHAT* (why it matters) & *WHAT NOW* (what do we do with such knowledge).

Last week we declared that “*God is, was, and forever will be...*”

Today we declare as a church that “*God creates...*”

We believe God is the Creator of the heavens, the earth, & all mankind. He is the very source of, & sustainer of life! He sovereignly rules over all He has created – working all things together according to His good & perfect will!”

When addressing questions about creation it’s important to remember:

- Scripture is both our starting point, & end point as our source of truth!
- Science is not the enemy... the devil, our flesh, and our fallen world are!
- When rightly understood, both Scripture & nature (science) are aligned!
- Both Scripture and science don’t answer all our questions!

So what can we know about creation... Who, What, When, How, Why?

WHO – Scripture is clear, creation came about b/c of a “who”, not a “what”!

Genesis 1:1 – “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...*”

Acts 4:24 – “*Sovereign Lord, who made the heavens & the earth & the sea & everything in them...*”

Many choose to deny this truth, but even nature points to a designer/creator!

Psalms 19:1 – “*The heavens declare the glory of God & the sky proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, & night to night reveals knowledge.*”

WHAT – The “what” (matter, space, time) is the effect, not the cause!

Genesis 1... the heavens, the earth, light, day, night, land, bodies of waters, vegetation, sun, moon, stars, days, years, living creatures, mankind... They all exist because God brought them into existence!

They not only exist, but their existence is good, & purpose-filled! **Gen. 1:31**

WHEN – Scripture (God) does not tell us “when” creation happened, and no one else was there to record it. & it’s impossible to know otherwise exactly how old the earth is because there’s just too much that we don’t know!

We can turn to science to try to help us understand what Scripture does not reveal, but science can only definitively answer what it has the ability to test... and the creation of the world can’t be re-created or tested in a lab!

Here-in lies the tension...Scripture doesn’t tell us everything & science can’t!

For example, Scripture tells us that God created the world in 6 days... Science tries to tell us that it took millions of years... Our understanding of both is limited!

- What if there is a break in time between Gen. 1:1 & Gen. 1:2 or Gen. 1:3...?
- What if “a day” was not a literal 24 hr. day until “Day 4” of creation?
- What effect does a “grown-up” universe, have on determining the age of it?
- What effect would a global flood have on geological data?
- What if the world functioned differently after the flood than it did before?
- What if the word “kinds” in Genesis 1 could be interpreted quite broadly?

Francis Schaeffer who raised these questions (& others), is pointing out that “*in both our understanding of the natural world & our understanding of Scripture, our knowledge is not perfect.*” But remember what takes precedence!

“*When God’s Word says that man was formed ‘from the dust of the ground’, it doesn’t seem possible to understand that to mean that He did it over a process that took millions of years & employed the random development of thousands of increasingly complex organisms!*” So what do/can we know?

HOW – What is clear from Scripture about “how” God created? He spoke & things happened! And every indication is that things happened immediately!

Romans 4:17 – God “calls into existence the things that do not exist.”

Psalms 33:6, 9 – “*By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host... For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*”

Secular theories & theistic evolution need to be tested by what Scripture clearly teaches! *Eternal matter... the big bang... evolution between species...*

WHY/SO WHAT – Why did God create, & what does He want us to learn from it?

Revelation 4:11 - “*Worthy are you, our Lord & God, to receive glory & honor & power, for you created all things, & by your will they existed & were created.*”

He wants us to come to know Him more & to increase our trust in Him!

If God created all things, then all things have meaning, value & purpose! And if “man” is created in God’s image, then that’s amplified all the more!

WHAT NOW – The more you come to know God, the more you’ll bring Him glory! The more you bring Him glory, the more joy you will discover in Him! Live into the purpose of God’s creation & you will discover life to the full!

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