

August 21, 2022

Magnificent Creator

by George Slover

“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. “(Psalms 19:1)

The superscript of this psalm ascribes it to David. I am sure this shepherd boy had many opportunities to gaze into the heavens and marvel at God’s creation. Psalm 19 may be divided into two sections: 1) the greatness of God’s physical creation (vs. 1-6), 2) the greatness of God’s Word (vs. 7-14). Consider with me some points from the first section of this psalm.

Notice in verses 1-3 such words as “declare,” and “speech.” David is telling us in figurative language, the stars are shouting a message! If we wish to know what God is like, David says look to the heavens!

The vastness and marvelous design of the cosmos never ceases to amaze me. Since early boyhood I have been intrigued by manned space travel. I remember when man first landed on the moon. I recently read that plans are being made to send a man to mars. Mars, at its closest point is 46 million miles from the earth! Yet, if man travels to this planet, he will have only penetrated a tiny fraction of space. There are one hundred billion stars in our galaxy alone, and those stars are thirty trillion miles apart. How far is thirty trillion miles? To help us grasp the distance: when the space shuttle is in orbit it travels at a speed of 17,000 miles per second. If you could get in the space shuttle and speed through space

at 5 miles per second it would take you 210,450 years to travel 30 million miles! Incredible!

What do the heavens tell us about God? They tell us of His infinite power. He is the self-existing, infinite Being who created this vast universe out of nothing and who holds it all together! The stars also illustrate his infinite love. The Psalmist writes: “For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; (Psalms 103:11). How high are the heavens above the earth? Start with 30 trillion miles and you will have just begun to fathom the height of God’s love.

Dear reader, you are a sinner. Though you have disappointed God, He still loves you and offers you an opportunity to tap into His infinite mercy and wisdom.

Our Purpose

By Rickie Jenkins

We are all unique and created for a purpose bigger than ourselves. Have you identified your purpose? Ultimately, our purpose is to be conformed in the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). The ultimate purpose of God does not stop at forgiving lost man. It is taking that lost man, justifying him and then have him be formed into the image of the Son. Our purpose is to grow up to be like Him.

We are not just playing out the game of life until the clock ticks off and no time is

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our fall meeting with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

left in the game. We are not just living out the days of our lives so we can change zip codes, from earth to heaven. Further, we are not just trying to stay out of hell. If a parent were asked what their goal is for their child, they might say, "To keep him out of jail." That has merit, but while our child may stay out of jail, surely there is more we want for them than that.

Paul will say, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the upward call of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14). He said he had not attained but was pressing toward that mark. I would suggest the mark is to be like Jesus (Matt. 5:45). It is to be perfect as He is perfect. (Matt. 5:48). The idea of perfect is to be like the highest order of what is under consideration. When considering love, Jesus' love is of the highest order. We are to strive to have the highest order of love like He loves. How does He love? He makes it rain on the just and unjust. He makes the sun to shine on the just and the unjust.

We are growing up to be like Jesus in mind, heart, desire, teaching, and character. No matter how early the transformation begins, we will not finish that transformation. The transformation is finished by God when we are with Him (1 Thess. 5:23).

Again, Paul will say, "We are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18). "From glory to glory" is bit by bit. A little bit here and a little bit there. It a slow but progressive process. It is one failure after another and sometimes one success after another. But all along the way, transformation is taking place.

How many problems would be solved if we all took seriously this transformation to be changed to be like Him? Hate would go away. He is love. Anger would go away. He is meek. Pride would go away. He is humble. Sin would go away. He is righteous. All problem marriages would vanish. All problems that parents have with children and children have with parents would disappear. Why? Because we are all growing up to be like

Him. There would be no strife between brethren. He is peace.

So, what is our purpose? Not bigger houses, nicer cars, and more clothes, but to grow up to be like Him (Eph. 4:15). I like how the Psalmist said it, "I shall not be satisfied until I awake in Your likeness" (Psalms 17:15).

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

Dinah Williams is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother) is under treatment for cancer.

Debbie McMurray is recovering from her radiation treatment.

Andrea Ayers is recovering from surgery on her jaw.

Randall Vanaman is recovering from a heart stent.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
Darrell@
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Jim Johnson
Darrell Trammel

Contact Us

Address:
P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:
oakswestchurchofchrist.com