

God Is Creator, part 2 of **FOUNDATIONS to Build Your Life On**
Nov. 15, 2015

In part one of this series, I talked about the importance of a good foundation. I showed you pictures of the little white house that withstood one of the worst floods in Canada's history. A good foundation can help you survive the storms and crises of life. When a crisis hits your life and you don't know where to turn, you go back to your foundations. Many people in France are doing that very thing this morning. Likely the churches are much fuller there today. When life doesn't make sense, you go back to your foundations. When you don't know who you can count on, you go back to your foundations. You go back to those foundational truths that you believe about the world. You remember who you are and who God is. You renew your spirit and head back out into the world with faith and hope.

This series is about the foundational truths of life. The first truth we looked at a few weeks ago was based on the first four words of the Bible.

Genesis 1:1 (NIV) In the beginning God...

In the beginning of the world, before anything yet existed, before anything was yet created, when there were no people, no animals, no plants, no oceans, mountains, deserts, no sun, moon, or stars, not even a planet, all the way back then, there was God. In the beginning, before anything was yet made, God existed. God made the universe and is not part of the universe. God exists outside of the universe. The Bible teaches us that God is Real. God exists. This is our first foundation.

I said two things about God. I talked about how special God is. God is unique. Unique means God is one of a kind. There is only one God and no one else is like Him. I said there was a word we use for the uniqueness of God. Do any of the children remember what that word is? **We call the specialness of God His holiness.** God is Holy.

I also talked about how important God is. God is important because of His power and knowledge. God has more power than all the power in the universe. In addition God knows everything there is to know in the universe. There is nothing about you that God does not know. God's power and knowledge make God very important. I said there is a word we use for the importance of God. Who remembers what that word is? **We call the importance of God His glory.** God's importance is His glory. When God uses His power and knowledge in our lives, it shows us the importance of God.

God is the most special person in all the universe. God is the most important person in all the universe. So how should we act towards the most special and important person in the universe? This was the point of part one. This is the response we should make to God as God. **Response to Foundation #1: Give God the honor, respect, and praise that He deserves as GOD.**

We should be aware of God, of His holiness and glory, and we should give Him the attention He deserves as the most special and important person in the universe. We give Him attention by praising Him in His holiness and glory.

Today we are going to learn another foundational truth about God. And when we do so, it is going to mean another way of acting towards God. So let's look at the Bible for today's foundational truth.

Genesis 1:1 (NIV) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God created the heavens and the earth. The heavens, with an "s", includes the sky, outer space, and heaven as the place that God has His throne. God created places in the universe for us to live. In the rest of chapter one you can read of God creating the sun, moon, and stars, the planet earth, separating the water from dry ground, creating fish, birds, plants, and animals of all kinds.

God created the earth as a place that fits us. It has the water, air, food, and temperatures that we need. Mars doesn't have the air we need. Venus doesn't have the right temperature. The earth has all that we need for life. God made a place for us to live. God created the earth as a place that fits us. And when the earth was prepared for us, then God created us.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God is the Creator of all life. God is the creator of you and me. He made each of us individually, one at a time. He created each of us a living soul.

(boxes) So we have two foundations now. First, we have God. God is real. And second, we know that God is the creator of all life, the creator of you and me.

When we realize this foundational truth, that God made each of us and gave us life, how should we respond?

For the answer to that question we're going back to the book of Romans, back to the chapter one passage that we looked at in part one of this series.

Romans 1:20 (NIV) **For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made...**

This passage talks about the specialness of God, His holy, divine nature. It also speaks of His glory, that is, His eternal power. So it speaks of the specialness of God and the importance of God. But mankind, instead of responding to God correctly, has mostly ignored God. Look at what the next verse says.

Romans 1:21 (NIV) **...although they (mankind) knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him...**

God expects us to recognize His holiness and importance and give Him praise. This is what it means to glorify God. We praise His holiness and importance. He then expects us to recognize Him as our creator and thank Him for our lives.

Response to Foundation #2: Because God made you, thank Him for your life.

We owe God thanks. Each day when we wake up, we should thank Him for another day of life. We owe Him thanks. If someone gives you a gift, you owe them thanks. You can either thank them in person, with your voice, or you can write it. When I was a kid, my aunt who lived in Indiana sent me a Christmas present every year. And my mother would make me write a thank note to mail to my aunt. I did not like to write letters, but my mother taught me that writing a thank you note was the right thing to do.

Each day of life is a gift from God. Every day when we wake up we should thank God for another day of life. God expects our thanks because we owe Him our thanks. Giving God thanks for our lives is the right thing to do. We owe God thanks for all the good things in our lives. All the good things we enjoy are from God, as James reminds us in his letter.

James 1:17 (ESV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...

All the good things we enjoy are from God. So we owe Him thanks for them. We should give that thanks joyfully, with true gratitude, voluntarily. But we owe God thanks for all the good things in our lives.

Someone might be thinking, "Gee, if that is true, I'd have to be thanking God all day long." Bing, you've got it! That is exactly what we owe God. We owe God thanks all day long for all the good things in our lives.

Many of us have the habit of thanking God for food before a meal. The same principle that leads us to do that is true of every other good thing we have. All through the day, we should be thanking God for all the good in our lives.

Every time you laugh or smile at something, you owe God thanks. When you laugh at something you are enjoying yourself. You are enjoying life. You should thank God for the laugh and the life. Throughout the day, every time we enjoy something, we owe God thanks.

Every time we learn something new, something we did not know before, we owe God thanks for the new knowledge, for the brain to learn it with, and for the person who taught it to us. Every time we learn right from wrong, good from bad, we owe God thanks.

We owe God thanks for clean clothes to wear each day. Do you ever thank God when you put on your favorite clothes? We should thank Him for clothes, and not just our favorites.

For all the things you enjoy every day, you owe Him thanks. Do you ever thank God for your television? You use it a lot for entertainment, to learn new things, to check the

weather, sometimes just not to be bored. Give Him thanks. Do you ever thank God for your favorite novel or video game? Ever thank God for your home, your yard?

Every time you enjoy a walk around your yard, smelling the grass, cooking out, thank God for your yard. Some of you can thank God for your lack of yard. Every time you see others mowing and you don't have to, give God thanks.

For your soft, warm bed, you owe Him thanks. For muscles that work, you owe Him thanks. For legs that walk, you owe Him thanks. For hands that grip, you owe God thanks.

You may not like school, but you get to go. And it is free. And you have shoes to wear. For all of this you owe Him thanks. In parts of the world, children who have no shoes cannot attend school. In others, school is not free and many cannot afford to go.

For your job, you owe Him thanks. For enough health to go to work you owe Him thanks.

For family and friends you owe Him thanks. For a thousand and one things every day you owe God thanks. You cannot thank Him enough. But you can thank Him too little. You are enjoying life. You owe God thanks for that life. So give it. Give God thanks.

Make thankfulness a habit. Make thankfulness a way of life.

Now, we are talking about foundations to build your life on, foundations to count on as you live. Let me show you what that means for today's foundation. Grab a green hymn book from under the chair in front of you, or look up at the screen. We are reading hymn number 644.

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed
When you are discouraged, thinking is all is lost
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly
And you will be singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Whenever this song describes your life, go back to the foundation of God as creator. God, who has all the power and knowledge in the universe, is still here, ready for you to count on Him. Go back to the foundational truth of God as creator. Go back to God in thankfulness for all you have, for what you know to be true, and go back out into the world with Him, full of faith and hope./

Invitation

God is the creator. He made the planet, just the way HE wanted it to be. But sin has messed up the planet. Sin has messed us up too.

The most basic thing to give thanks for is life. And how few times have you given thanks for that? Once a day would not be too much. You owe at least that much thanks to God. And yet we have not done so. Can you count up how many times you failed to give God thanks just this past week? It would run into the hundreds. Each of those is a sin. Sin is failing to give God His due.

But God introduced a remedy for sin. He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price of sin. So, today, admit your sin to God and receive Jesus as your Savior from sin and turn your life over to Him as your Lord.