

CREATION

ESSENTIALS AND NONESSENTIALS

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The Word of God, as revealed to mankind in this hour, has what I like to call the “essentials” and “nonessentials.” There are truths that are absolutely essential for us to accept and believe. And there are thoughts and concepts that have not been made clear yet, that often fall into the category of “nonessentials.”

For ages, educated men have struggled with the age and origin of the universe. Even among the Christian world, there is strong disagreement related to the genesis of creation and the universe.

Regarding creation, I believe that the “essential truth” is revealed in the following scriptures:

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3, NKJV).

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:16-17).

“Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee” (Nehemiah 9:6)

The Age Of The Universe

Many have argued vehemently regarding the numerical age of the universe. Some say it is billions of years old. Some say that it is only 6,000 years old. What does the Bible say? The Bible does not give clarity as to the age of the universe. This is a “nonessential” question.

What is “essential” is that we know that God created all of time, and matter, by the creative power of His voice.

He spoke it into existence by His own authority, and He created the vast universe with purpose.

God's act of creating man and His purpose for this creation is shown in the following scriptures:

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7).

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:26-28).

Who knows how long it will take to have mankind fully in His image and likeness? We could never guess. But ultimately, He will have a creation walking in fellowship, in His likeness and in His image. This is an "essential." The truth that God created all that we see and know is an "essential." The truth that God has called man to have fellowship with Him through the doorway of Jesus Christ is an "essential." The amount of time that God invested in the physical creation of the universe is not revealed and is a "nonessential."

Mankind was placed on this earth through an act of creation by God Himself. This is an "essential." We did not evolve over time. We were created with purpose. If I could somehow look back at my ancestors over a thousand generations, they would all be complete men and women, not creatures that were somehow slowly evolving from

some lower life forms into a higher life form.

Our Creator held a conference in the heavenlies in ages past, and agreed to "Let us make man in our image." The phrase "Let us" most likely refers to the personhood of Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit before time had its beginning. "Let us," God said. And it was done.

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7).

"Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: (Isaiah 42:5)

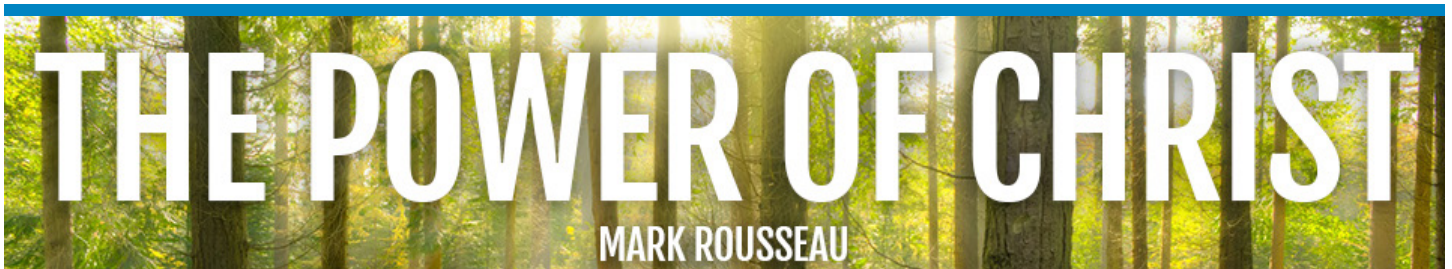
By reading God's word we can see what is important for us to know and understand in this hour in which we live. Through the book of Exodus, the Lord gives detailed instructions on how to build His house of worship in the wilderness. He lays out in great detail all that is related to the worship of God through the tabernacle in the wilderness. In fact, there are 7 chapters and 243 verses in Exodus describing the "pattern" of worship in great detail.

Do you know how many verses are dedicated to the description of the entire universe? There are only 31.

I believe this comparison helps us to focus on the "essentials" of trusting in God, in believing that He created all that is, for His purpose, without being a slave to trying to understand the detail and timing of His creative efforts.

Our belief, is as simple as the song: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

God said it, I believe it, that settles it. †



Unbelief can stop us from getting closer to God and fulfilling the very thing He has called us to. Unbelief, a tool of the enemy of our souls, as well as our carnal selves, keeps us from God's purpose. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).*

That purpose will bring us more joy than we ever thought possible, but the powers of darkness are out to destroy that.

We have no power in our own natural self to deal with those powers, as Paul (by the Holy Spirit) told us in Romans 7.

Upon examination of my own heart, I began to see how much unbelief there is in it. I could find this very discouraging, as I am sure Paul felt, in Romans 7, when he declared *"O wretched man that I am!"* But at the end of the chapter he brings us the answer in verse 24, *"who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* and verse 25, *"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord..."* Praise

the Lord! We have a great hope. Great isn't a big enough word to describe it.

God has a better plan for each one of us, and it is simply stated in Colossians 1:27, *"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:**"*

But let me take a little sidetrack and talk about God's word. Stay with me because it is vital to the rest of what I am about to write.

Very few things in this world are very dependable, but you **can count on God's word**. If it's not the only thing you can count on in this life, it's the only thing you need to count on. When He says something, you can count on it, period. I'm not talking about the dead letter. You can read the Bible till you are blue in the face and it will do little good without the Living Word (as Jesus is declared to be in the first chapter of John) being revealed to you by His Spirit. Why can we count on it? In Titus 1:2, it tells us that **God cannot lie**. It is impossible. It tells us in Proverbs 6:17 that God hates a lying tongue - hates it. That is strong language. So when God says something, you can absolutely depend on it because He is backing it up.

God's word has power. In Hebrews 4:12, it is explained, *"For **the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**"*

As God's child, it is vital to be very familiar with His word with the help of the Holy Spirit. It is a key weapon in the battle that we fight against unbelief and many other things we face. Psalms 119:11, *"**Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**"* It will keep us from that sin of unbelief. In Ephesians 6, the Lord encourages us to put on the full armour of God, and then in verse 17 He says, *"And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**"*

Now, with the word of God in hand and understanding how dependable it is, we can return back from our sidetrack to the main thought.

God gave Paul a wonderful gift, as we read in 2 Corinthians 12:7-11. He gave him a thorn in the flesh ("the messenger of Satan"). He did not know how to deal with it (and I'm certain he did not like it) but he called out to God three times. Sometimes we need to persist. God's answer was full of grace in verse 9, *"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."*

The next thing Paul said was amazing. Through this experience he realized his weakness and said, *"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that **the power of Christ may rest upon me.**"* Not only that,

but he became absolutely overwhelmed with it all as it says in verse 11, *"I am become a fool in glorying..."* Brothers and sisters, we need the power of of Christ to rest upon us!

If we have hesitation, that's an infirmity we can bring to the Lord. Anything we find in our lives, and Paul named a few in verse 10, *"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**"* *That strength comes from the power of Christ resting upon us.*

Permit me to relate a personal experience. This week I really started to understand this and to put it to work. It started with unbelief and the moment I brought that to the Lord I felt the power of Christ resting upon me and the unbelief vanished. I have struggled with being critical through the years, but I brought that to the Lord, and His strength was made perfect in my weakness. Don't get me wrong, I'm far from perfected in this or any other area, but I now have His very present help to meet it when it comes as stated in Psalm 46:1, *"God is our refuge and strength, **a very present help in trouble.**"* I brought my apathy to Him and I was given strength. I told the Lord of the lack of love, and the unkind attitude I have towards others. His love lifted me by that very same power of Christ. And my pride....well, the list goes on. What do you have on your list? Let the power of Christ rest upon it.

But this is not something that I do once and I'm good. No, it is a daily, moment by moment walk with Him. Isaiah 28:10 *"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:"* We must be careful not to let our guard down because we then give the enemy place to work. If we have trouble keeping our guard up, it is an infirmity and, glory to God, we can let the power of Christ rest upon that. I was encouraged along these lines, and perhaps you might be, by what the Lord gave us in an article in the November/December 2009 Sharon star titled, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."

This power of Christ is what we need in this hour. We are sons of God in the making, not by anything we have done or can do, but by His power we will come into maturity as Sons and glorify God.

All of this is made possible because of the love God has for us as revealed in 1 John 3:1-3, *"Behold, **what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure**"* †

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