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Creation Series – Part 1
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In The Beginning, God Created The Heavens And The Earth

God's PEACE is ALWAYS YOURS in Jesus.

Hear the Word of God from Genesis 1,

“In the beginning, God created the Heavens, and the Earth.”

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

Today, we begin a series of sermon on Creation versus Evolution. Now, when it comes to ORIGINS, there's really only two options: Creation or Evolution. Some Christians, who haven't studied the issue well enough, try to mix the two, and say 'God used Evolution to Create everything', which is an attempt to '*have your cake and eat it to*', but it's a total contradiction of God's Word, as we'll see in the weeks ahead.

So, what does God's Word say? Genesis 1, “***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***” And the Hebrew word for “created” – bara – means “*to make something out of nothing*”. Thus, the universe that you and I live in did not exist, according to God's Word, until our God, Who has all the power and capacity, all the wisdom and knowledge, and all the beauty and love to make what is VERY GOOD, chose to create it. If God's Word is the foundation of your life, then this is where everything came from, including you – from a wonderful, loving, and artistic God, who wanted you and me, and who gave us both a time, a place, and a space, to exist, and to live with Him, in His kingdom, forever, and enjoying all of His creation, for our good. Let's be very specific and summarize what we believe about the ORIGIN of everything, from Luther's Small Catechism: “*We believe that God created.....*

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| <i>a. everything in the universe,</i> | <i>b.. out of nothing</i> |
| <i>c. by the power of His Word alone,</i> | <i>d. in six, 24 hour days.</i> |

(SEE HANDOUT 1)

As a result, when you have as your foundation the truth of God's Word, together with the truth that God created all things beautifully, and He did so because He loves us, and wanted us, and created everything for our enjoyment, and for His glory, then you have a rock-solid foundation for your life: that is, you know where you came from, Who's you are, why you're here, that you're loved, and where you're going. Your life has meaning, purpose, value, significance, hope for the future, forgiveness for the past, and peace for the present. You also have a rock solid foundation for your life. In other words, now that we know that God's Word is true, and that He created us, owns us, rules over all things for our good, gives us all of His gifts for our enjoyment, and loves us dearly, we now have a rock solid foundation on which to build the structure of our lives.

Which brings us to Option Two, namely, that man's word is the truth, that there is no 'God', that matter always existed, that the universe was formed, by chance, via the Big Bang; that life emerged, by chance, from non-living matter, that all of life evolved, by chance, over billions of years, via natural selection, and when you die, you cease to exist

Now, it's at this point that "*the gloves come off on both sides, and the boxing match begins*". It doesn't take long for the average evolutionist to say: "*They believe in science, and we, Christians, believe in religion,*" which is a bunch of evolutionary "bologna", and you need to see the lie, and not buy into it. In fact, Evolution is as much of a religious belief, possibly more, than Christianity.

Creation versus Evolution is not a battle between 'religion and science'. They're both religious beliefs. However, that doesn't mean that Christians don't believe in science. Bible believing Christians can and do love science, and we use it to discover the laws God built into His creation, so we better understand the gifts of God's creation, and how to use His gifts rightly, and enjoy them fully. Bible believing Christians love science, or observational science the kind we can see, test, repeat and falsify; because observational science backs up God's Word repeatedly. It's the theoretical, hypothetical science of the evolutionists, that denies God and His Word, that we have problems with.

You see, both Christians and Evolutionists have a problem; namely, that we can go back in time, to observe, test, repeat or falsify what happened in the past, with the scientific method. You can only hypothesize or hold a belief about origins, as God said to Job, *“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Were you there?”* Of course the evolutionist will admit that he wasn’t there, but he’ll quickly add, *“And neither were you.”* To which, our answer is, *“No! I wasn’t! But I know someone who was there, Who is the source of all things, Who wrote down an eyewitness, first-hand account of all that He created, and, if we test what the Bible says, by observational science, it’s backed up and validated . Are you ready to listen?”*

But the evolutionist isn’t done slicing the bologna. Next, the Evolutionist will throw out this zinger at you: *“Oh yah! Well, where did God come from?”* But the dirty little secret they don’t want to admit is that they have an equal, but opposite, religious belief. It’s true, we Christians believe that **God always existed**. However, the evolutionist believes that **matter always existed**. They can’t prove it. It’s a religious belief they hold. As one creationist pastor put it: *“The matter, with their matter, is it has no maker.”*

Still, the evolutionist will insist, *“You can’t prove that God always existed.”* And our answer is, *“You’re right, because we can’t go back in time either.”* However, ours’ is not a blind faith, because our creator God made a public appearance in human history, in the second person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus, Who said, *“I’m the only true God there is, Who created all things, and you’re not, and I’m going to prove it, not only by the miracles I do, but also by dying and rising again from the dead.”* And Jesus did it.

But let’s not stop there. Christians believe that God created all things. Were we there? No. Do we have to take this by faith? Yes. Is ours’ a blind faith? NO. Jesus entered our history, and died and rose again, to vouch for the truth of God’s Word. However, what the evolutionist won’t tell you is that he or she has an equal, or greater faith. While we believe that everything that exists came from God, although we can’t prove it by using the scientific method, because we can’t go back in time, the evolutionist believes that the whole universe came from the pre-existent matter, via a Big Bang, but they also can’t go back in time to prove it, by using the scientific method. It’s a religious or philosophical belief, and they hold to it with religious fervor.

But let's not stop there. Christians believe God created everything, out of nothing, by His powerful Word. Can we prove it? No. We have to accept it by faith. Why? We weren't there. But again, ours' isn't a blind faith, Jesus entered our world, and our history, and caused many things to happen simply by His Word: the feeding of the 5000, stopping storms, healing diseases, raising the dead. However, the Evolutionist believes that life emerged from non-living matter – although they can't go back in time to prove it scientifically, and they have never been able to prove it to this day, in a laboratory, and they've tried. They have to believe in 'spontaneous generation' blindly - that life arose from non-living matter, by chance, billions of years ago. Totally unproven, but again, believed with religious fervor.

But, let's not stop there. Christians believe that God created all of the plants, animals, dinosaurs – yes, we do believe in dinosaurs, and that God made them. He made the bird and water dinosaurs on Day 5, and the land dinosaurs on Day 6, but that's another sermon. And finally, God created mankind, in His own image. And that He made everything according to their kinds, all at once, in the six days of creation. We can't prove it scientifically, because we can't go back in time to test it. However, in the same way, the Evolutionist has to believe that the first living cell - which came to life by spontaneous generation, although they have no proof, that, that first living cell, over a period of more than 4 billion years, by chance, and natural selection, evolved into every kind of plant, animal, and human species we see today. They can't prove it scientifically, but they believe it with "religious fervor".

So why is any of this important? Here's why. Your foundation determines not only the structure of your life, that you're going to build upon that foundation, but also, it will determine whether or not the structure you build will last or be destroyed. Jesus said in Matthew 7, ***“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rains came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine, and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. And the rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”***

Folks, this isn't rocket science. If you build your life, home, family, and dreams on the sinking sand that man's word and evolution are the truth, and that you can be your own 'god', everything you build will fall with a great crash, and eternally, it's only a matter of when, where and how. But if you build your life, home, family, and dreams, upon the solid rock of God's Word, and creation, centered in the Savior, Jesus Christ, who loved us enough to die for us, to forgive and save us from our sins, then what you build will stand firm, no matter what you face in life. 1st Corinthians 3:11, "***There is no other foundation that can be laid, other than that which is already laid, which is Christ.***"

You'll either build your life on the sinking sand of man's word is the truth and evolution that we're here by chance, there is no 'god' but me, life has no ultimate purpose, and we're going nowhere, so we might as well please our nerve-endings, and enjoy the journey, while you wear your old surfers' T-shirt, that says, "*Life's A Beach, And then You Die!*" And as empty and fatalistic as that is, many people gladly believe it, because it gives them a 'so-called' scientific basis to be their own god, to be accountable to no one but themselves, to titillate their flesh, and to HOPE there's no hell.

Yet, all the while they believe their free, living life without God – cutting themselves off from the God Who all He wants to do is love us – in the end, they'll be judged by the God they insisted didn't exist. And do you know what He'll give them? He'll actually give them what they wanted: namely, LIFE WITHOUT HIM, but what they don't realize is that's HELL. As Robert Capon once put it, "*those who do not want to know God, or be known by Him, will at last, have their self-chosen invisibility ratified by Him.*"

(SEE HANDOUT 1)

Look once more at the handout I gave you. Those who build their lives upon the foundation of Man's Word, and Evolution, where everybody is their own "god", and everybody has their own truth, are building a life, a structure, or even a culture that is lawless – and leads to rebellion, rioting, no self-control, school violence and shootings, gay marriage, sexual immorality, pornography, abortion, you name it. It's a life that has no ultimate meaning, purpose, value, or significance, peace, hope, joy, or future, no matter how much fun you may think you're having pretending to be "god".

So why is believing in God's Word and Creation so important, and believing in Man's word and evolution so deadly? Here's why. Many Christians believe that there's no harm to be done in compromising on creation versus evolution, as long as you believing in Jesus, and teach your children to believe in Jesus, it doesn't really matter.

Wait a second, if you accept mans' Word, and the teaching of Evolution, who are, in effect, saying that much of Genesis 1-11 is wrong. And if you begin to teach your children that they don't have to believe God's Word in one part – Genesis 1-11 – then don't be surprised when they reach what is actually a logical conclusion. If I can't believe that God's made created everything, just like the Bible says, then how can I know it's true when the Bible says Jesus died to forgive me, and rose again to conquer my death. A child who says that is actually being more consistent then a parent who says, you don't have to believe Genesis 1-11, but you do have to believe John 3:16.

And for those parents, who think that the issue of ORIGINS – where everything came from - isn't really that big of a deal, and that a person can believe whatever they want: Creation or Evolution, and it won't affect what one believes about Jesus, you are far down the road of destroying your own foundation, both for yourself and your kids. As proof, Dr. Ken Ham of Answers In Genesis, wrote a book about 10 years ago, called "Already Gone". And this book is based on a survey of 1000 Christian, young people, who were active in their faith thru High School, but they fell away from the church and lost their faith in Jesus in college –which is enemy territory number one for a Christian's faith – or they lost their faith in the years immediately after college. And when those 1000 Christians were asked why they left Christianity, and no longer believed in Jesus. almost 60% said: "*Evolution has proven the Bible wrong.*" Now I'm here to tell you that Evolution has not proven the Bible wrong, at all, but they've been led to believe it has. Why? Because they haven't been taught the truths of God's word, along with "WHY" we can trust God's Word, nor have they had the lies of Evolution exposed as the frauds they are. And parents, it is primarily your responsibility to do so. And one of the ways, your church plans to help you, is that we plan to take our youth group to The Creation Museum, and The Ark Encounter in Kentucky, to help our youth learn how to defend their faith.

You see, the foundation you build your life on determines your worldview, and your worldview determines how you see God – if you see Him at all – and how you see yourself, and your place in the world: either that you are the beautiful artwork of a loving God, Who wanted you, so He made you, and He gave Himself to you, along with all of His gifts, for your enjoyment, together with the instruction manual of His Word, in order for you to know how life is to be lived in order to obtain maximum pleasure from God; so that you would know how to use His gifts in such a way, that you don't hurt yourself by misusing His gifts, but enjoy maximum pleasure in using them rightly.

Let me illustrate this with a couple of examples, before we close. If God's Word and creation are the truth – and Jesus' resurrection says they are, and observational science confirms it - then we have a basis for morality, what's right and wrong, good and evil. And so, when God tells us to save sex for marriage, both in His creating us, and in His sending of Jesus to die for us, that He is a God of love, Who is not trying to rob you of fun, He's trying to help you experience love at its' deepest level. So when He says, for example, that marriage is to be between one man and one woman, united as husband and wife, until death do they part, who save sex (which is the greatest physical gift you can give to your spouse) for marriage, rather than seeing how many people you can become one flesh with, and thus robbing your future spouse and yourself of the intimacy, love, and pleasure God designed for the two of you alone to cherish, because He wants the best for you. Now don't misunderstand me. If you've made mistakes, God's love for you is not based on your not making mistakes, it's based on the fact that His heart is simply in love with you. And if you've made mistakes, that doesn't nullify Jesus' forgiveness. It is precisely for our mistakes that Jesus died, to forgive us, and give us a fresh new start at life lived within the wisdom of this God who loves us beyond words. .

However, if you "*buy the lie*" that "*you are all the 'god' there's every going to be*", that you're here by luck, your life has no ultimate meaning, and you're going nowhere when you die, if that's your foundation, you might as well do whatever you want with your body (shack up instead of marriage, sex with multiple partners, experiment with homosexuality, live on a diet of pornography, you name it). If man's word and evolution are true, we all came from cats and dogs, so why not behave like cats and dogs, because sin is just your interpretation of an event. But if God's Word and Creation are true then "SIN IS SIN" and "The wages of sin is death." And life is only found in Jesus, and that's why this matters.

Similarly, if Genesis and God's Word are the truth, it changes how one views life and death. God's Word teaches us that life is a gift of God. The Lord created Adam and Eve to live. He placed them into the Garden of Eden with all that they needed to enjoy life supremely, and to live, forever, with Him, in Paradise. But He warned them, that if they chose to be their own 'gods', and sin against Him by eating fruit from the Tree of the Knowing of good and evil, that they would surely die; for our life is found in God alone. If God's Word and Creation are the truth, then God's goal for everyone is life, in all of its' fullness and sweetness, and all of the sufferings and death we experience in this life are not caused by God, but are an intrusion into God's perfect plan, caused by our sin.

However, if you believe that man's word and evolution are the truth then that means you believe that death, bloodshed, species ripping each other to pieces, the survival of the fittest, and the elimination of the weak, are all a normal part of life. So what do you do with spare cats? You get rid of them. Thus, if man's word and evolution are true, what do you do with spare babies, or weak adults in nursing homes? You get rid of them. Why? When you play god – and believe that life has no ultimate value from a loving God, but just a utilitarian value, when they no longer have a utilitarian value, you abort the baby so you can have more sex “without consequence” or, you get rid of Grandma Schmidt, so spend her money on yourself.

In closing, Deuteronomy 6 says, “***See, I lay before you life and death...Now choose life, that you and your children may live, and the Lord is your life.***” These two options can be seen in two very different trees. The way of death is seen by Darwin's evolutionary tree, that says “*there is no God, there is no such a thing as sin, death is just a normal part of life, you're here by chance, your life has no meaning, so just enjoy the journey, and when you die that's it.*” Darwin's tree is a tree of death.

Yet, there is another tree – the Tree of Life – the Tree of Christ's cross, where all who have sinned by listening to the devil's lie: that they can be their own god, and live against the True God, without any consequences, are, at the Tree of Christ's cross, offered new life. For on the Tree of the cross, the most fit and perfect species Who ever existed, God's Son, DID NOT SURVIVE, so that the weak species of sinners would not be eliminated, And then He blew the lid off of His own grave on Easter morning, not only so that you and I could know that His Word is the truth, and build our lives upon it, but so that we could live happily ever after in heaven, with the Divine Artist Who gave us life, the Savior Who saved our lives, and the Spirit Who breathed life into us! Amen.