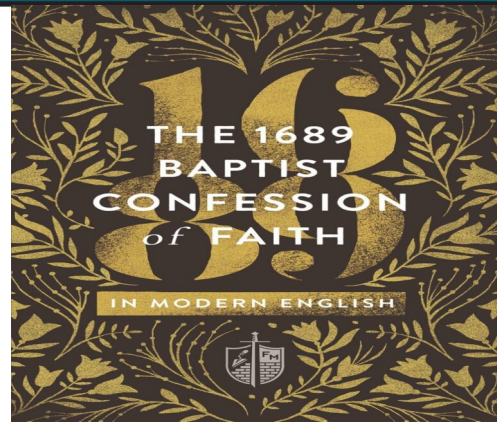


Chapter 4 – Creation



1. In the beginning God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit¹ was pleased to create or make the world and all things in it, both visible and invisible, in a six-day period, and all very good.²

He did this to manifest the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness.³

¹John 1:2, 3; Hebrews 1:2; Job 26:13. ²Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:31. ³Romans 1:20.

2. After God had made all the other creatures, He created man. He made them male and female,⁴ with rational and immortal souls,⁵ thereby making them suited to that life lived unto God for which they were created.

They were made in the image of God, being endowed with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness.⁶ They had the law of God written in their hearts⁷ and the power to fulfill it.

Even so, they could still transgress the law,

because they were left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change.⁸

⁴Genesis 1:27. ⁵Genesis 2:7. ⁶Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 1:26. ⁷Romans 2:14, 15. ⁸Genesis 3:6.

3. In addition to the law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.⁹ As long as they obeyed this command, they were happy in their communion with God and had dominion over the creatures.¹⁰

⁹Genesis 2:17; ¹⁰Genesis 1:26, 28.

This may be found in its entirety @founders.org

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, Ruler of all, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only -begotten Son of God, begotten from the Father before all time; Light, from Light, true God from true God; begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father, through Whom all things were made;

Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made a man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried, and rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father.

He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who is worshipped and glorified together with the Father and Son, and Who spoke through the Prophets.

And we believe that there is one holy, catholic and apostolic church.

We confess one baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.



THE BROADCASTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

From The Pastor's Desk

Last month, we began our discussion related the order of salvation and how it views the relationship between God and humanity. Labeled Ordo Salutis in Latin, it is what we are convinced that the Bible teaches about how we are saved and the order in which it happens. It is an important conversation and one that aids in a proper understanding about how God applies the saving work of Jesus Christ and His sacrificial atonement to our lives. In May, we considered the Gospel (Effectual) Call and how it is described as God by His sovereign will drawing a sinner to salvation translating him to a salvific place of grace. In other words, the call placed on a person's life will deliver the end for which God intends it; soul-saving salvation. It is explained as the work of the Son applied through a God-given faith that is empowered by the toil of the Holy Spirit. It shows clearly the active roles of each member of the Trinity in delivering reconciliation and restoring the saved soul back to God. Now, we will consider the next step in salvation's work. It is described as Regeneration or New Creation. Across many years, the term "born-again Christian" has often been used to describe the new state of existence. This is a helpful phrase especially as it connects to some very powerful verses that describes what happens to believers when God transforms them.

□ *If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.* 1 John 2:29
 □ *No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.* 1 John 3:9
 □ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* 1 John 4:7
 □ *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.* 1 John 5:1

There is a lot to unpack in those verses but there is a theme that is evident. As John writes to believers, he speaks of the reality of being born of God. This is not a physical birth but a spiritual one. Jesus even told Nicodemus that you must be born again. Through these verses, we can expound a few truths about being a born-again believer and what it looks like. The regenerate Christian will live in righteousness, forsake sin, love others and love God. That is an excellent summary of the follower of Jesus Christ and its requirements. However, we must remember that these are the fruit of regeneration and not the cause of it. I believe Sproul explained it well, "Regeneration is a work of the omnipotent power of God, power that nothing can overcome or resist." If we have established the results of regeneration, we must ask exactly what it is. First, it is the ministry of

the Holy Spirit alone that applies the work of Christ on the cross to the unregenerate person. This means, as Grudem puts it, "Regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us." Paul elucidated the point in his second letter to the Corinthian church as he spoke of the power of God to bring about an everlasting change to those who have been redeemed. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Through regeneration, God makes us new. He doesn't make us better. He doesn't remodel us. He makes us new creatures because of His redeeming power. It doesn't cover the old person with a new person because the old unregenerate person is gone for good. The prophet Ezekiel describes it as God giving us a "new heart" and a "new spirit." Glory to God alone for His work in salvation that has brought us new life in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit! He graciously looked down on us in love and graciously remade us so we could be with Him forever. May we never forget this truth. Many blessings,

Bro. Jim Tenney

FBC Family,

Do you ever question the reason and purpose behind what we do in the Christian life?

Why do we do the things that we do as Christians?

It's important that we ask and intentionally teach the purposes and reasoning of why we read God's Word, why we gather at church, why we sing songs, and why do we preach and teach God's Word.

One of the reasons we preach and teach the Word of God is so we can know and follow sound doctrine.

As we continue looking at doctrine. In 1 Timothy 1:11, Paul tells Timothy all doctrine is in accordance with the Gospel. All doctrine is God given, found in Scripture alone, and always in agreement with the Gospel. Last month we looked at who God is. God is holy, holy, holy. Holy means to be separated and to be completely pure, clean, and without blemish.

This is who God is and in all He does.

He is holy.

God will never allow anything unclean or unholy in His presence.

This leads us to an understanding of who we are as mankind.

Who are we in respect to God who is completely holy and right in every way?

If God created all things perfect and pure, how did we end up in the muck and mire that we are living in today?

How does mankind go from

being perfect and pure in a garden to what Paul says in Romans 3:10-12, *"as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.'*" –Romans 3:10-12 None is righteous; that means that none among us are right before God.

No one does good, not even one. No matter how good we appear or think we are, we are not in the eyes of God.

In our sinful condition, we are all unrighteous.

This is mankind's condition, but how did we get in this condition?

Paul will go on in Romans to say that through one man's sin, sin and death entered the world. Through Adam's sin, he brought sin into the world and death through that sin.

Sin was passed down to Adam's children, and sin spread to the whole human race.

Sin has corrupted everything, and we feel the weight of sin all around us.

Our sin has separated us from God.

It has placed us under His displeasure. This may not seem important to many people.

Some think they can simply be good, and God will be pleased with them.

Others think that God will simply overlook their sins, after all He is a loving God. Yet we must remember that God is holy and He is also just.

He will never act in an unholy

way or violate justice.

This is a problem for all of us. There is never going to be enough good deeds that we can do to be right before God. Isaiah says this about us in Isaiah 64:6, *"We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."* – Isaiah 64:6

All our righteous deeds are like a dirty garment before God. We can try to clean up our act. We can stop doing bad things and start doing some good things, but it will never clean us up.

It's like taking a rag full of oil and attempting to clean with it.

It's not going to work!

It will never bring us back into fellowship with God. God is not going to simply overlook our sins.

In fact, we are all going to be held to account for everything we have ever done, in public or in private.

This is who we all are.

Mankind's condition is under the wrath of God.

As difficult as this is, we must know the doctrine of mankind for us to see our need for Christ Jesus.

This is why doctrine is so important.

It leads us to Jesus Christ who is the only righteous One who has ever lived. Doctrine helps us see who we are and our desperate need for Jesus to rescue us from God's wrath.

-Jeremy Martinez

www.FiveDayBibleReading.com
2026 Edition

Week Twenty Three: *May 31 - June 6*

Day 1: Proverbs 3-5; Romans 10

Day 2: Proverbs 6-7; Psalm 7; Romans 11

Day 3: Proverbs 8-10; Psalm 144; Romans 12

Day 4: Proverbs 11-13; Psalm 8; Romans 13

Day 5: Proverbs 14-15; Romans 14

Week Twenty Four: *June 7-13*

Day 1: Proverbs 16-18; Romans 15

Day 2: Proverbs 19-21; Psalm 40; Romans 16

Day 3: Proverbs 22-23; Ps 117; 1 Thess 1

Day 4: Proverbs 24-25; Ps 41; 1 Thess 2

Day 5: Proverbs 26-28; 1 Thess 3

Week Twenty Five: *June 14-20*

Day 1: Proverbs 29-31; 1 Thess 4

Day 2: Song of Sol 1-3; Ps 72; 1 Thess 5

Day 3: Song of Sol 4-6; 2 Thess 1

Day 4: Song of Sol 7-8; Ps 127; 2 Thess 2

Day 5: 1 Kings 5; 2 Chr 2; 2 Thess 3

Week Twenty Six: *June 21-27*

Day 1: 1 Kings 6; 2 Chron 3; 1 Timothy 1

Day 2: 1 Kings 7; 2 Chron 4; Ps 44; 1 Tim 2

Day 3: 1 Kings 8; Psalm 30; 1 Timothy 3

Day 4: 2 Chron 5-7; Psalm 121; 1 Timothy 4

Day 5: 1 Kings 9; 2 Chron 8; 1 Timothy 5

Week Twenty Seven: *June 28- July 4*

Day 1: 1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chron 9; 1 Tim 6

Day 2: Ecclesiastes 1-3; Psalm 45; 2 Tim 1

Day 3: Ecclesiastes 4-6; Psalm 125; 2 Tim 2

Day 4: Ecclesiastes 7-9; Psalm 46; 2 Tim 3

Day 5: Ecclesiastes 10-12; 2 Timothy 4

"What is truth?"

That is the rhetorical question Pilate asked when Jesus was on trial before him.

Jesus had stated that everyone who was of the truth would hear His voice. Pilate was not seeking an answer. He was expressing doubt that there was any hard, fixed, absolute truth. That idea is driving our culture today.

Our culture says that truth is relative.

It is whatever an individual wants it to be, given different situations, circumstances or preferences. Such thinking is, basically, a rejection of God and one's accountability to Him.

People want to be their own god, do their own thing, and be the masters of their lives. We, as Christians, must oppose and seek to counter such thinking.

We stand for truth as it is revealed in the Scriptures.

Every person is accountable to God when it comes to what is right and wrong, what is true and untrue, and who will be in control of their lives. We preach the truths of God.

We are called to share truth with those in our culture even if they are offended by it.

One way of embracing truth and proclaiming it is in our worship, both personal and corporate.

We sang a hymn in our Sunday worship service a few weeks back, "Behold Our God".

The lyrics include the following statements:

Who has held the oceans in His hand;

Who has numbered every grain of sand.

Who has felt the nails upon His hands;

Bearing all the guilt of sinful man.

God eternal humbled to the grave;

Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign.

Behold our God, seated on His throne,

Come let us adore Him.

Behold our King, nothing can compare;

Come let us adore Him.

These words are straight out of scripture declaring the truth of God's omnipotence, His great sacrifice in His Son, His victory over sin and death, and His reign as eternal God, Savior, and King.

Weeks before we sang the song in our corporate worship, it had become a source of private worship in my life.

I listened to it by video and sang it multiple times a day.

The element of truth is what I find so appealing in the old hymns in our worship.

There are many good contemporary songs that are biblically sound. But, so many are lacking in the basic theological truths that are expressed in the older hymns.

Worship should teach.

It helps shape our beliefs and ideas.

When you enter into worship, be sure that your focus is upon the truths of God's word and not simply an emotional high.

Jesus declared, "Those who worship Him (God) must worship in spirit and in truth.

Blessed to serve,



Bro. Vernon