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Sermon Notes

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Commendation and Creation

Hebrews 11:2-3

Two great questions stand in front of human beings in every generation, in every culture, all over the world:

- 1) How did I get here?
- 2) What should I live for?

Questions of WORTH... or IDENTITY... and questions of ORIGIN

In our text today, we are looking at two vital issues connected with saving faith... we are discussing the way by which we can be commended by God, and the way by which we can understand the origin of the universe

A life that is well-pleasing to God and a life that comprehends the existence of the universe... those are two of the many gifts of FAITH

Hebrews 11:1-3 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11 Set in Context

A. Immediate Context

1. The Righteous will Live By Faith, the Unrighteous Shrink Back and are Destroyed

Hebrews 10:38-39 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." ³⁹ ¶ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

2. One Step Further back to 10:36: You NEED ENDURANCE in OBEDIENCE in order to INHERIT

^{ESV} Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

- i) HOPE in God's Promise
- ii) OBEY God's commands with ENDURANCE
- iii) INHERIT God's promise in the end

3. One Step Further back to 10:34: To Create THIS KIND OF PEOPLE

Hebrews 10:34 You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

4. Finally, One Step Further Back: 10:26-31: Dire warning against apostasy

Hebrews 10:26-27 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

B. The Power of Examples and Heroes

Faith is the Assurance of Things Hoped for, the Conviction of Things Not Seen (vs. 1)

^{ESV} Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

I. Faith Resulted in the Commendation of the Ancient Saints (vs. 2)

^{ESV} Hebrews 11:2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

A. Who Were These People?

- 1. The text calls them "the elders" or "the people of old" or "the ancients"
- 2. Similar to Hebrews 1:1

Hebrews 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways

- 3. The rest of the chapter makes it very plain who they are... Old Testament saints... ancestors of the faith
 - a. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, etc.
 - b. These people go back to the very beginning of history... Abel, the second generation of humanity; Enoch, the seventh from Adam... they encompass all of human history

4. The biblical worldview very much cherishes the experience of the ancestors if it's worthy of esteem... but in no way encourages ANCESTOR WORSHIP
- B. Who Commended Them? And How Did That Commendation Come?
1. The word translated "commended" = "testimony" or "witness"
 2. Greek is PASSIVE... it WAS reported about them, they WERE commended or testified about
 3. Clearly God is the one commending them... like this statement

Have you considered my servant Job?

4. Or even more like this one:

Well done, good and faithful servant!

5. It was done for OUR benefit by the Holy Spirit in the Scripture... by positive statements made in the text
 - a. God saw to it that their stories were recorded for us in Genesis or in other historical accounts of the Old Testament
 - b. BUT we get only a small portion of the testimony...
 - c. The full record is in God's heavenly history book...
 - d. Thus the names of forgotten people in the genealogies of 1 Chronicles are suggestive of a perfectly FULL record of lives of faith that God the Father treasures to His heart

Malachi 3:16-17 Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. ¹⁷ "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.

6. So, much more significantly, the commendation of these ancients was done by God in the heavenly council as he welcomed these heroes of the faith into glory!!

Romans 2:29 Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God

John 5:44 How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?

1 Corinthians 4:5 At that time each will receive his praise from God.

C. On What Basis Were They Commended?

1. It was not on the basis of their COURAGE or their LIKEABILITY or their WISDOM or their INTELLIGENCE or their ACHIEVEMENTS or their TALENT or their CREATIVITY or the STRENGTH or their ELOQUENCE or any other positive attribute of their character
2. The text makes it plain that they were commended on the basis of their FAITH
3. BUT it is important to know that they were not commended FOR faith but BY FAITH
4. In other words, there is nothing MERITORIOUS in our faith... but faith is a necessary means to being commended by God

D. What Is the Significance of their Commendation?

1. The Author is making it plain that this one principle has ALWAYS been the case:

Hebrews 10:38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.

2. From the very beginning of Redemptive History, sinners have been justified only by faith in Christ... all along, it has always been the same
3. Old Testament saints were justified by trusting in the promise of Christ who was to come later; Church age saints are justified by trusting in the promises based on Christ who has already come

Hebrews 11:26 [Moses] regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

4. Faith is NO NEW THING... some NEW PRINCIPLE that God cooked up when all else had failed
5. From the very beginning of the world, the only possible way for a sinner to be accepted by God was by FAITH
6. Romans 4 makes it plain that Abraham was justified by faith just as we are

Romans 4:1-3 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about-- but not before God. ³ What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

7. When Abel offered his animal sacrifice, and that sacrifice was well-pleasing to God, Abel was looking to Christ every bit as much as we are now

E. What Practical Observations Can We Make from This?

1. From the beginning of the world, God's people have set their hearts on a future world, a new world, a new city, a heavenly one... and they lived as aliens and strangers on this sin-soaked world
2. Those who receive a good testimony from God will never lack insults and opposition from the world.

Luke 6:26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

3. BUT if God commends you, what difference does it make if the world hates you?

Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

If God commends us, what difference does it make if anyone else opposes?

AND if God will not commend you for this or that action, what difference does it make if all the world APPLAUDS you?

4. Therefore, let the church learn to ESTEEM faith in its people above all other virtues... the ability to live a holy life, living only to please an invisible God
5. Let us seek out faith-filled people to esteem and imitate!!

II. Faith Understands God's Creation of the Universe (vs. 3)

ESV Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

A. Verse 1 and Verse 3 are Partners

1. In some very significant ways, verse 3 helps explain verse 1

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

2. This verse addresses some of what those THINGS NOT SEEN are
3. It relates the universe and its very existence to the invisible actions of an invisible God
4. This is something that could only be accepted by faith

B. Verse 3 a HINGE Verse

1. Verses 1-3 in some ways describe faith in general... depicting the EXCELLENCE of faith and its nature and qualities
2. Verses 4-40 follow the testimonies of specific people from the Old Testament
 - a. These testimonies are given by the same formula again and again: “By faith... “ By faith...” “By faith...”
3. Verse 3 has the verbal formula “By faith...”
4. BUT it does not mention any specific heroes of the faith and their experiences
5. RATHER it speaks of us now... “WE” together... something that is common to all believers in Christ
6. The foundation of a proper understanding of CREATION
7. The word UNIVERSE in this verse is literally “the AGES” or “the WORLDS”... the “aeons”... this word in the Greek has a long philosophical history... but its most common understanding is of the physical universe in all of its complexity... the world of outer space, the world of the atmosphere, the world of the ocean, the world of the desert or the tundra or the jungle... the world of living creatures...
8. This is a foundational issue
 - a. The entire Bible begins with the CREATION ACCOUNT in Genesis 1-2
 - b. The Gospel of John begins with creation

John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

- c. The Book of Colossians speaks very clearly about creation

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

- d. This Book of Hebrews has already mentioned the doctrine of creation

Hebrews 1:10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

- e. This issue of a proper understanding of creation is FOUNDATIONAL to our faith

- f. So it is in our own personal testimonies... the first education we got concerning the existence of God was from the theater of God's glory, the magnificence of CREATION
- g. It was Scripture that came in later to explain and interpret it for us
- h. Faith BEGINS in this area... understanding properly the doctrine of creation

C. How Faith and Understanding Go Together

1. The text links them together:

“By faith, we UNDERSTAND...”

2. Understanding is an issue of the MIND... how we think, how we perceive things, what sense we make of them, how we reason about them
3. It is so vital that we see the perfect unity between faith and reason... between our faith and our intelligence...
4. It is in this issue that natural minds reject the truth and become darkened

Romans 1:20-22 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, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

5. This issue of creation is one on which many Christians stumble; we are told that we must keep a wall of separation between our faith and our science
6. DEEPER: a harder issue is how faith enables us to UNDERSTAND something
 - a. Romans 10:17 says

Faith comes by hearing

- b. And in that same chapter, it is stated that no one can believe in Jesus without knowing about Him

Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

- c. In other words, you have to KNOW something before you can BELIEVE it
 - d. But this passage seems to say that faith precedes understanding

e. I actually believe it is an endless cycle

- i) We come to believe that the Bible is the true word of God and that everything it teaches is true...
- ii) That is a commitment of FAITH
- iii) But that commitment comes before we learn everything it teaches about every topic
- iv) So, when a person comes to saving faith, they are ready to be retrained on all kinds of issues... they find that Genesis 1 teaches that God created the universe, and by faith they understand that to be true
- v) ALSO it is faith that presses a mere concept ever deeper to be an abiding life principle... it takes us beyond mere ASSENT of a true fact to a wholehearted EMBRACING of a truth to the very depths of our being
- vi) Faith-filled people just UNDERSTAND things about this world that unbelievers don't

D. What Faith Teaches Us about the Universe

1. The universe is NOT eternal, nor did it produce itself, but they were formed by a Creator
2. The God of the Bible—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—is the Creator of the Universe
3. God made the world with exactness, precision, order: for the text says that God “framed” the universe... the Greek word means “to fit out, arrange, put in order, equip”... the astonishing arrangement of the heavens and the earth, of the solar system (the sun is exactly the proper distance from the earth, the moon exactly the proper size and distance from the earth); of the ecosystems (the astonishing “biosphere” that the earth is, with its atmosphere having a perfect mixture of oxygen and nitrogen; of salt water and fresh water, of evaporation and rain; of living creatures in proper balance—earthworms to burrow through the soil to loosen it and allow air and moisture at the roots of plants); of even the systems of the human body—the nervous system, the circulatory system, the skeletal and muscular systems, the digestive system, the reproductive system, the respiratory system... and how perfectly arranged they are

Psalm 139:14 “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made”

NOTICE: these things are perceived BY FAITH ONLY... in other words, the “Intelligent Design” approach can always be refuted by unbelievers

4. God made the universe BY MEANS OF HIS WORD ALONE... by His wisdom, by His Son, and by His willful action:

Genesis 1: "God said 'Let there be _____', and there was _____"

Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:6-7 And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.

Genesis 1:9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.

Genesis 1:11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

So also with the Sun, moon, and stars... all created by God's word

So also with the animals and birds and fish... all created by God's word

So also with man... male and female

5. The Universe was formed OUT OF NOTHING, out of no pre-existent matter

Romans 4:17 the God who ... calls things that are not as though they were.

These five things we understand BY FAITH... science will never teach us these things; science CANNOT teach us these things... it is only BY FAITH that we understand these things

Three other key things faith teaches us about the universe:

6. The Universe in its present form is TEMPORARY

Hebrews 1:10-12 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed.

Hebrews 12:27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

7. The Universe exists for God's glory

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever!

8. The Universe was created through Christ and is sustained by Christ

Hebrews 1:2-3 in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

E. What is the Significance of the “Word of God” for Us in this Text?

^{ESV} Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

1. The word of God is prominent here... because it is essential to the ongoing spiritual health and FAITH of the Hebrew Christians
2. The word of God is that which God USED to create the universe
3. So also it is that which God USES to save our souls
4. The Word comes from God’s mouth and it saves our souls:

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

5. When God speaks the WORD of the Gospel to us, faith rises up to meet it and our souls are saved

1 Peter 1:23-25 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

6. The Scriptures are given to bring us to saving faith... the word is invisible, but powerful and active:

2 Timothy 3:15 how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

F. Our Faith Rests on an Invisible Foundation

1. The universe was formed from an invisible word coming from the mouth of an invisible God
2. So also our faith was formed based on an invisible word coming from the mouth of an invisible God
3. God sustains the physical universe moment by moment by His ongoing powerful activity through Jesus Christ

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

4. God also sustains our faith moment by moment by His ongoing powerful activity through Jesus Christ

Luke 22:32 I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

G. So... the Five Sense World Cannot Sustain Our Faith

1. If a believer is flagging in faith, it is the INVISIBLE that will nourish that person's faith... not the visible
2. A wonderful trip to the seashore or a magnificent stroll through a radiant forest in the fall can refresh us indirectly, but only because of the word of God and our faith can we know that GOD MADE ALL THIS BEAUTY
3. The five-sense world cannot sustain faith because it did not create it... faith is sustained directly by God, primarily through the Scripture
4. The Evidence for God's creation is all around us

Psalm 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display

Psalm 104:10-14 He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. ¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. ¹² The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. ¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work. ¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate-- bringing forth food from the earth:

Romans 1:20-22 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, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

5. BUT the evidence CANNOT COMPEL FAITH... faith interprets the evidence
 - a. Lee Strobel's 2004 book *The Case for the Creator*

- i) Topics covered include “Doubts about Darwinism”, “The Evidence from Cosmology: Beginning with a Bang”; “The Evidence from Physics: The Cosmos on a Razor’s Edge”; “The Evidence from Astronomy: A Privileged Planet”; “The Evidence from Biochemistry: The Complexity of Molecular Machines”; “The Evidence of Biological Information: The Challenge of DNA and the Origin of Life”
 - ii) Some of the evidence Strobel’s book puts forth: the universe is FINE-TUNED for life... if some of physics basic constants were changed even by a tiny amount, life would be impossible; the solar system is fine-tuned for life... if the earth were just a tiny amount closer or further from the sun, life would be impossible; the complexity and perfect order of the genetic code of the DNA molecule points to a creator
- b. BUT as compelling and encouraging as his book is for us believers, it is UNCONVINCING for many “experts” in the field... Paul Doland, a writer at an atheistic website called “infidel.com” wrote a long, long article rebutting Strobel’s arguments point by point.
 - c. It reminds me of what Jesus’ Jewish adversaries wanted to do with Lazarus... the living proof of Jesus’ power to raise the dead... the greatest single evidence of Jesus claim to deity: they wanted the KILL HIM TOO!! “Don’t confuse me with the evidence!!”

H. The Limitations of Science to Promote Faith

- 1. By faith we understand that God created the world... it does not come to us by SCIENCE... no experiment can prove the existence of God or the fact that God created all things
- 2. Science is all based on observation of the five-sense world and logical deductions from those observations...
 - a. Take Galileo’s famous experiment on gravity from the leaning tower of Pisa
 - b. Galileo wrote in a book called *Two New Sciences* rebutting Aristotle’s concept that the speed of a falling object was proportional to its weight

Galileo: I greatly doubt that Aristotle ever tested by experiment whether it be true that two stones, one weighing ten times as much as the other, if allowed to fall, at the same instant, from a height of, say, 100 cubits, would so differ in speed that when the heavier had reached the ground, the other would not have fallen more than 10 cubits.

- c. He had an idea about the effect of gravity on falling objects, and formulated a theory; he then crafted an experiment that would test that theory... he

carried two stones of different weights to the top and dropped them at the same time... they hit the ground at the same time

- d. He did other such experiments... repeated them many times, and came up with a settled conclusion... Galileo's Law: the accelerating effect of gravity does not relate to the weight of the object
 - e. Isaac Newton did the exact same thing with his famous laws of motion: "an object in motion tends to stay in motion, an object at rest tends to stay at rest"
3. There is no experiment we can set up with phenomena in the five-sense world that will prove the existence of God or God's creation of the universe or the efficacy of the blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins
 4. Furthermore, scientists completely reject any theory that cannot be falsified... proven false by experimentation
 5. God in His wisdom made it IMPOSSIBLE to reason yourself to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." ²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

6. It was WISE for God to make it IMPOSSIBLE to reason your way to Christ and to salvation... only by the gift of faith can we be saved
7. Stephen Jay Gould's NOMA: "Non-overlapping magisteria" science and faith occupy completely different realms and ought not to venture into each other's fields and make pronouncements; SEPARATION OF FAITH AND SCIENCE
 - a. No... but understand the limitations of science for promoting faith
 - b. Faith does not contradict genuine accurate observations about the world... it does contradict some of the logical constructs that scientists make from their observations; but faith and science CAN harmonize

- c. But science cannot produce faith... faith rests on the WORD OF GOD and God's direct action on the human heart alone

I. A Word About Evolution

1. An atheistic theory of evolution is pitted directly against the statement in this verse; atheistic evolution posits time + chance... the inevitable outcome of mindless scientific forces that HAPPENED to come together in this present physical universe
2. The verse tells us that the universe was formed, fashioned, crafted with intelligence directly by the word of God
3. Faith trusts this tale of origin rather than the atheistic solution of origins
4. God has also left certain significant forms of evidence not only that He created the universe, but also that evolution is not the best explanation for origins
 - a. The positive evidences for God in nature: Romans 1, Psalm 19 above
 - b. The serious flaws with the evolution hypothesis:

A Scientific Dissent from Darwinism states that:

We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.

- i) Where did the first living cell come from?

INVERTED PYRAMID of CARDS in a WIND STORM

- Big-Bang
- Stars formed
- Solar system formed
- Earth formed just right for life
- Non-living chemicals to amino acids
- Amino acids (all left-handed) to proteins
- Proteins to RNA
- RNA to DNA
- DNA to single-celled organisms ("Life" according to definition)
- Single-celled organisms to multi-celled organisms
- Multi-celled organisms to invertebrate marine life
- Invertebrates to vertebrate marine life
- Vertebrates to amphibious animals
- Amphibious to reptiles
- Reptiles to mammals

- Mammals to primates
- Primates to Man

ii) Why doesn't the fossil record show MANY transitional forms from one species to the next? (Why do we not see a continual development of species in the fossil record? Instead, species pop up fully formed in the fossil record)

iii) Irreducible complexity: what good is 28% of a wing to a species that cannot yet fly, but its descendents will fly in a million years?

5. Some Christians may ask, "What about THEISTIC evolution? The idea that God has been governing the development of the world through evolution?"
- a. Again, we have to ask the simple question: "What does the Scripture say?"
 - b. Key question for theistic evolution: what about this one statement:

Acts 17:26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth

c. What about the Genesis account of God forming and fashioning things fully formed? Like Adam, formed from the dust of the earth.

6. Ultimately, though the evidence beautifully supports the creation of the universe by a wise and loving creator, it is only our faith in the word of God that will ultimately settle the issue... brilliant atheists like Richard Dawkins will be able to continue to mock the creator

III. Application

- A. Understand that Faith Alone Justifies
- B. Seek the Commendation of God that the Ancients Received
- C. Meditate much on Hebrews 11:6 for that Commendation
- D. Delight in the Biblical Account of the Creation of the Universe FROM NOTHING by the WORD OF GOD!!!
- E. Be Humbled by that Meditation...

Psalm 8:3-4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

- F. Praise God for what the Physical Creation Tells Us

Psalm 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

- G. Give Greater Credence to the Written Word than the Creation as the Sustaining force of your faith

Psalm 19:7-9 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.