Compass Life Adult Sunday School

Pastor Pete

September 9, 2018

**“Rethinking Creation”**

**I. “In the Beginning God…” (Genesis 1-2)**

\_\_\_\_\_ comes first! Before anything else was, before there was a universe in the beginning: \_\_\_\_. He comes first. It is not that God needed the universe so he wouldn’t be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In the oneness of God there is a complexity such that God loves the Son, the Sons loves God, even in eternity past, and he doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the universe. God speaks. He is a \_\_\_\_\_\_ God. The first thing he does is speaks and by his powerful word calls the universe into existence. Right through the whole Bible, God is a talking God, and he dares to speak in words that human beings can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. God made everything. That is against pantheism, in which everything in the universe is God. But here there is a distinction between God, who exists \_\_\_\_\_ everything in the universe, and the created order. There is one God who is \_\_\_\_\_\_, and he made everything \_\_\_\_. He stands behind good and evil in different ways. He stands behind good in such a way that the good is always creditable to him and the evil is always creditable to secondary causalities, like the serpent, even though it can’t sweep away God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. So already the beginning of the necessity for the doctrine of grace is established by the storyline in the doctrine of creation. God made everything good. And that means that human beings are accountable to God. The grounding of our accountability to God is the doctrine of creation. It becomes the source of believer’s praise (Psalm 33:1-6, Revelation 4:9-11). God makes human beings in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and likeness; made by God out of the dust. On the one hand, we are supposed to reflect God. We are his image. And on the other hand, we too belong to the dust. We are made from the dust. We are part of the created order and not to be confused with God. Human beings exercise a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over creation. In Genesis 1:26–27 we read, “Let us make man in our image” so men and women are both made \_\_\_\_\_\_ in the image of God. One is made first and the other is made for the one. The beginning of Sabbath is bound up with God’s rest. The text does not say that Sabbath is imposed at this point. It says that God rests on the seventh day. But when the Sabbath is instituted legally in the Decalogue, the text self-consciously looks back \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. There is a huge emphasis in the rest of the Bible on the greatness of God testified by his creation. The Bible reminds us that God is sovereign over creation, knows the end from the beginning, and everything is accountable to him. Isaiah 40:12 and Isaiah 43:15 call us back to worship God because of his greatness and the display of his own glory in creation, which is a point that is also found in Romans 1. God has not left himself without witness because his existence and glory are already displayed in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ itself.

**II. God’s Earth and His Stars**

For 2000 years, ancient astronomers believed that the Earth was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and had other celestial bodies travelling in circular orbits around it. **Earth is the only planet not named for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or goddess.** The other seven planets in the solar system were named after Roman gods or goddesses. **The gravity between the Earth and** **the Moon** **causes the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Earth.** **The rotation of the Earth is gradually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** Eventually this will lengthen our days but it will take around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years before our day will have increased from 24 to 25 hours. **Earth’s atmosphere is composed of 78% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, 21% oxygen, and trace amounts of other gases including argon and carbon dioxide. **The large amount of oxygen on Earth comes from our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ consumption of carbon dioxide** during photosynthesis. **The Earth has an Ozone Layer which protects it from harmful solar \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. **70% of the Earth’s surface is covered by water** – the remainder consists of continents and islands which together have many lakes and other sources of water. **Earth’s** axis of rotation is tilted 23.4° away from the perpendicular of its orbital plane, which produces the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we experience. At the most conservative estimate, there are at least 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stars in the universe. Every star you can see in the sky in bigger and brighter than the \_\_\_. Sunlight takes approximately \_\_\_\_\_ minutes to reach the surface of the earth. The earth is situated about 93 million miles from the sun. The sun is so big that more than one million \_\_\_\_\_\_ could fit in it. There are 9,096 stars visible to the naked eye in the entire sky. Astronomers estimate there are a trillion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy. When you look at a star you are seeing how it looked in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Sun appears as it was 8.5 minutes ago. Polaris the North Star is the brightest star in the constellation of Ursua Minor and is \_\_\_\_\_\_ Light Years away from Earth.

**III. Galaxies and the Universe of God**

Earth is the \_\_\_\_\_\_ planet from the sun. It’s also the largest of the terrestrial planets. Surprisingly, although Earth is the 5th largest planet in the solar system regarding size and mass, it’s the densest of all the planets. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the largest planet in the solar system, by far. Jupiter overtakes other planets regarding mass and volume. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the smallest planet in the solar system in regard to mass and volume. Earth is the only planet where water can occur in its 3 states; solid, liquid and vapor. The solar system takes approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years to complete one orbit of the galaxy. Mars has experienced the biggest volcano (Olympus Mons) known to man. It’s the biggest volcano to ever occur in the solar system, at 374 miles (602 km) across, to be exact. In fact, scientists have compared the volcano to the size of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Jupiter contains the largest ocean than any planet in the solar system. Despite the plethora of objects spinning in the solar system, the sun accounts for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of its sheer mass. The remaining is contained within the solar system’s eight planets. Neptune experiences the strongest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than any planet in the solar system. Scientists estimate that it has wind speeds of up to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Uranus has the coldest atmosphere than any planet in the solar system, recording a minimum temperature of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fahrenheit. Mars has the tallest mountain in the solar system, with an approximate height of \_\_\_\_\_\_ miles (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ feet). The 4 small inner planets, sometimes referred to as terrestrial planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars), are chiefly made up of rock and metal. The 4 outer planets, sometimes referred to as gas giants and consists of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, are significantly larger, and a lot more massive than inner planets. The Milky Way is approximated to be \_\_\_\_\_\_ light-years in diameter, and is composed of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which include the sun. Despite the huge number of stars, the distance between Earth, including its nearest star system, the Alpha Centauri, is mighty. The physical Universe is defined as all of [space](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space) and [time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time) and their contents. Such contents comprise all of energy in its various forms, including [electromagnetic radiation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetic_radiation) and [matter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matter), and therefore planets, [moons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_satellite), stars, galaxies, and the contents of [intergalactic space](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outer_space#Intergalactic_space). The Universe also includes the [physical laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_law) that influence energy and matter, such as [conservation laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservation_law), [classical mechanics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_mechanics), and [relativity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory_of_relativity). The Universe is often defined as "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_", or everything that exists, everything that has existed, and everything that will exist.

**IV. Why did God Create the Universe?**

God created us to know him and love him and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. “The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19). It’s not about us. It’s about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The universe is declaring the glory of God and the reason we exist is to see it and be stunned by it and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God because of it (Rom. 1:21-22). The great tragedy of the universe is that, while human beings were made to glorify God, we have all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of this purpose. So, why did God create the universe? God created our world and this universe for his glory. Isaiah states it plainly in (Isaiah 43:7), and affirms the same truth in Isaiah 40:4-5). For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. (Isaiah 60:2) The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor . . . to give them . . . the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-3) The glory of God’s grace displayed supremely in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This world was created and is guided and sustained by God so that the grace of God, supremely displayed in the death and resurrection of Jesus for sinners, would be glorified throughout all eternity in the Christ-exalting joys of the redeemed (Ephesians 1:5-6, 2:7) God pours out his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ upon his people. God planned “the praise of the glory of his grace” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Ephesians 1:4,6) From eternity, God’s plan was that the glory of God’s grace would reach its high point in the saving work of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We see this in the name that was already on the book of the redeemed before the creation of the world. Before there was any human sin to die for, God planned that his Son be slain for sinners. We know this because of the name given to the book of life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Rev. 13:8). Therefore, the ultimate purpose of creating and guiding and sustaining this world is the praise of the glory of the grace of God in the crucifixion of his Son for sinners. God created the world to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that his people might know, love, and show him.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

## 9/16 “History of Astronomy, Part I”