

# CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 5

"Be Exalted, O God!"

23 February 2020

## Introduction: Subjectivity & Anxiety

- That many in our day live without reference to God manifests not only in the increasing numbers of those who claim no religious affiliation, but also in how those people, others who claim to believe generally in God, and even many who claim to be specifically Christian, seem to share the same struggles with identity.
- Many in our day (both young and old) find themselves struggling with issues of identity because the traditional ways that people have understood themselves and their place in the world have been steadily undermined.

**Key Point:** To confess that we believe in God the Father, Almighty maker of heaven and earth, is to declare that we recognize that our lives \_\_\_\_\_ to Him therefore derive their \_\_\_\_\_ from Him.

## The Father's Power

"God possesses what no creature can: an incomprehensible [abundance] of power, a potency that is absolute. This we know by divine revelation, but once known, it is recognized as being in full accord with reason. Grant that God is infinite and self-existent and we see at once that He must be all-powerful as well, and reason kneels in worship before the divine omnipotence."

- A.W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*

THE APOSTLE'S CREED  
I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY  
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;  
AND IN JESUS CHRIST  
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,  
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,  
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,  
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,  
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,  
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN  
FROM THE DEAD  
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,  
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE  
FATHER ALMIGHTY;  
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE  
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.  
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;  
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;  
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;  
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,  
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.  
AMEN.

- We believe that God is powerful because He has revealed Himself in Scripture as 'God \_\_\_\_\_'!

"God Almighty" – אֱלֹהֵי שַׁדַּי ('el Shaddai - OT) and παντοκράτωρ (pantokratōr - LXX, NT)

Most powerful or all-powerful; the one who holds sway over all things; the ruler of all.

Gen. 17:1—When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless

Rev. 1:8—"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

⇒ *This name emphasizes God's \_\_\_\_\_ power.*

Job 33:4—The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Gen. 35:11—And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.

Isa. 13:6—Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!

**Key Point:** Knowing God involves not only a recognition of His sovereign power, but also \_\_\_\_\_ that He exercises that power on behalf of His \_\_\_\_\_, in accordance with His will.

Psa. 91:1—He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

## The Father's Works

- We believe that God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of everyone and everything.

⇒ *God created all things from \_\_\_\_\_ (ex nihilo)*

Gen. 1:1-2—<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

⇒ *God created \_\_\_\_\_ unique among all else that He made.*

Gen. 1:27— So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him male and female he created them.

Gen. 2:7—then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

"That there is nothing either above him or after him, and that he created all things not influenced by anyone but according to his own free will. He is the only God, the only Lord, the only Creator, the only Father. He alone contains all things and he himself commanded all things into existence."  
—Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* (2nd C.)

• **We believe that God \_\_\_\_\_ all things.**

⇒ **God exercises His power in \_\_\_\_\_ His creation.**

Psa. 145:16-17—<sup>16</sup> You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. <sup>17</sup> The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

Gen. 8:22—“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease.”

⇒ **God exercises His power in the lives of His \_\_\_\_\_.**

Psa. 139:16—<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Isa. 45:5-7—<sup>5</sup> I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, <sup>6</sup> that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. <sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

Matt. 8:29-31—<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“This is what I mean and believe—that I am a creature of God. That is, He has given me and constantly preserves my body, soul, and life; members great and small; all my senses, reason, and understanding and so on; food and drink, clothing and support, wife and children, housekeepers, house and home...Thus, we learn from this article that none of us has life in himself, nor can he preserve his life or anything that is listed here...however small or unimportant a thing might be. For everything is included in the word Creator.”

—Martin Luther, *Large Catechism*

**Key Point:** The recognition of God as our Creator and Sustainer is central to a life of \_\_\_\_\_.

Psa. 8:1,3-4—<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Psa. 57:11—Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

## Concluding Thoughts

1. **To confess God as our Creator is to recognize that all human life has \_\_\_\_\_ value.**

*From the beginning of life...*

Psa. 139:13—For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.

*...to the end of life.*

Psa. 116:15—Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

2. **To confess God as our Creator is to recognize that our lives are not our \_\_\_\_\_.**

1 Cor. 8:5-6—<sup>5</sup> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

3. **To confess God as our Creator is to recognize His providential care is present even in our \_\_\_\_\_.**

Heb. 12:5-7—<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR BE WEARY WHEN REPROVED BY HIM. <sup>6</sup> FOR THE LORD DISCIPLINES THE ONE HE LOVES, AND CHASTISES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.” <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

4. **To confess God as our Creator to trust that He will one day make all things \_\_\_\_\_.**

Rev. 21:1-3,22—<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God...”<sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.