

We don't want our WALK with God to become this sad, week, meaningless stroll or trot.

We want to continually grow, going deeper down and further in....so we REACH

: **What you believe influences what you do so in all you do REACH**

**Our Faith**, (our thinking, our belief) influences **our practice** (our actions, how we live)

**What you believe influences what you do**

So we reach in our Faith, our Belief, we want to have right thinking

we need to strengthen this... always growing in wisdom & knowledge as 2 Peter 3:18 challenges

So we look in Scripture to strengthen what we believe and listen

**The Apostle's Creed is a great help for us in strengthening our belief.**

There's a lot in Bible to read, know and understand.

- **The Creed is** a statement of beliefs
- A teaching of what God has said, of what is true about the faith
- **it helps the follower of Christ see at a glance what Bible speaks of in specifics.**
- The Creed is a way for us to view basic doctrines, beliefs, high points of our faith/belief.

**READ Together the Apostles Creed from Screen**

**:Tonight: I believe in God, maker of Heaven & Earth**

This is crucial, really all our crucial.

There are a lot of thoughts on Creation out there today....

But what we believe to be true about God in Creation shapes every other thought about life.

So what needs to be done is this: **we need to see what the Bible says.**

We get into the Word so the Word gets into us and shapes our life, The Creed helps us get into the Word

The Creed says "**I believe in God, the maker of heaven and earth.**"

Where in the Bible do we see this? **Genesis 1:1 (turn & read)**

**This is simple right. The Bible's first comment is one that says God made everything that is.**

(That's what "*the heavens and the earth*" really are saying) God made all that was made.

The aim of Gen. 1 & 2 is **not to tell us how** the world was made **but who made it.**

We can spend a lot of time discussing and debating how it all happened.

People can break Scripture down and look at whether it was made in 6 days or 6000 years

Did God start it off and then allow it to evolve? How did it go down

Listen...discuss it...but hang your hat on this....**God made all that was made with His word**

Psalm 104 praises the God of Creation....the maker of Heaven and Earth

**Read Ps. 104:1-5**

**Think about the God we believe in....**No material existed until He said "LET THERE BE"

from "out of nothing" God made all that was made. That's a big God

God was totally free and unrestricted, nothing determined or shaped what he brought into being except his own idea of what it would be like, and then He spoke it into existence, with His Word.

That's big, important, crucial to our walk and our Reach

**Why is this important? Why does viewing God as having made all that was made matter? 3 things**

**1. It stops misunderstandings of God** – God made us in His image.... He Made Us

Ever heard someone say "I made you!" Why do they say that? They are saying they are in control

That's what we have with God but we tend to think we are in control don't we?

God does not depend on us - we depend on Him

God does not exist by our will or for our pleasure – We exist by His will for His pleasure

God is not limited – we are God is incomprehensible – That sounds bad doesn't it?

What does it mean for God to be incomprehensible? It means he is beyond us

He is in control and beyond us but still allows us to live in freedom, to know Him

**(we can no more take his measure than our dogs can take ours) (Our God is BIG yet we can know Him!)**

**2. it stops misunderstandings of the world** – the world exists by the will and power of God, it's creator.

Not only in viewing Creation vs evolution but more so in how we view the world.

We are the stewards, caretakers, not it's owners.

We view the world by enjoying the temporal things with joy and gratitude to God.

We view them as their creator views them and live with thankful hearts that He chose to give them to us.

I hope this makes sense. We enjoy creation with a heart of thanks.

Not like the 4 yr old brat who rips the gift of his fathers hand without a head nod.

**3. it stops misunderstandings of ourselves** – If God made all that was made who made you?

yes, God...so then how should we live? For Him, others or ourselves?

Our view of God being the maker of Heaven and Earth really brings to light how we view Him, this world and ourselves. again, God is Big!

and get this – **Genesis 1:27** (God made man in His own image) that's pretty big

**Imago Dei** is the big word for this. Out of all creation only we are made in His image.

Not to be a God but to be like Him. He gave us the privilege and authority over creation.

We are to manage this creation and to be His chief image bearer...IMAGO DEI

to feel, to love, to be

If God is not creator we just got less important...life just become very meaningless

Look at **Isaiah 45:5-7,9,11-13**

From the very first comment of the Bible we see that God is Creator. This is His Story.

And in His grace and mercy He has extended to us His love, Salvation. But we must never forget...this is His Story

HE let us in!

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**:Bottom Line {{God made all that was made and all creation belongs to Him.}}**

Now, how does this reality, based on God's Word, change things for us...what does it mean for us?

Do we just check it off the list of what we believe in and move on or is there more?

What are the implications of this? What should our response be to this?

**1. It should change our view of God and our allegiance to Him–**

He is the creator, I am the created...all of this is His. This should change how I treat Him right?

rather than a puppet or a little toy maybe I should respect and honor Him...HOW?

**2. It should change the way I live** - this should change how I live right?

- It should change how I treat and view His creation (people, places and things – all the nouns!)
- Look at **Psalms 19:1-4a** – Creation is declaring His worth – Are we doing this with our lives?
- Are we, His chief image bearers declaring his worth?
- It should change how I make friends, who I date, who I cling to...the drama I allow in
- if what the Bible says is true it should change things, it should change everything

This is why we must guard closely who we are closest to....what do they believe?

Friends are huge helpers in our walk with God but they can also be a great hurt.

**Choose wisely your friends. They have a huge part in us REACHING.**

- It should change how I view myself right? Imago Dei is not something light..it's heavy.

Why should I ever allow someone to get me down with lies about who I am and how I am when I am made in His image. **(Psalm 139:13-14) My worth is found in Christ (period)**

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**3. It should change how I Reach for understanding daily:** I can't possibly expect to listen half heartedly to a sermon or Sunday school lesson and understand God more and live for Him completely.

Do I approach time in His Word the same way I do (fill in the blank?)

If I believe He is the maker of heaven and earth how can I not reach to know Him more

So I get in the word so the word will get in me.

You'll get as much word put in you as time you put in the Word. **(it can't happen any other way)**

It matters much who we view and believe to be the maker of heaven and earth (of all things that were made)

**and the greatest thing is this....though He is big God still chooses to allow to Know Him through Christ.**

**This should change everything for us in life**

Questions:

1. What stood out from tonight's sermon and Scriptures?
2. When we say that we believe that God is the maker of heaven and earth what are we really saying? *((Check out the bottom line for some help gathering thoughts))*
3. What is your response to the bottom line? How does this reality change things for you?  
How does this change science class? evolution talk? friendships? dating?

**Remember, we don't need to get lost in the how but the Who of Creation**

So how do I, in love, share Christ and God's love in the midst of creation/evolution discussions?

4. What do we base this belief and reality off of? Where is our support for this belief?
5. How should this belief effect how I view God and live my life? What changes should I make personally?
6. Read Romans 1:18-25 – How do we see this today? Specifically v.25? Are you personally ever guilty of this? how should we respond?
7. How are intended to live? Why and How are we created? Why do we live? Read Genesis 1:27
8. Why is God being creator such a foundational belief we need to dive into?
9. What is the significance of God's words "Let there be...."
10. What encouragement are you leaving with tonight?
11. Explain Imago Dei – why is this important?