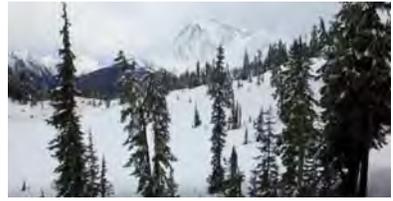




Narrator: "There are many questions about the history of the earth. What major events might have occurred to shape it?"



"Was there a global flood?"



"A big bang?"



"How did the earth become filled with so many amazing diverse creatures?"





Narrator
Del Tackett, PhD, Engineer



**"I'm Del Tackett,
the creator of
The Truth Project,**



**and I spent a year
asking a wide
variety of scientists
to help me better
understand the world
we see around us."**





"Well, it was a story that we all learned in grammar school. The Colorado River over tens of millions of years cut the Grand Canyon. Most geologists have jettisoned that idea. You can't imagine a canyon enduring that long with erosion. Time is not a magic wand that solves all the geologic problems of the world."



Steven Austin, PhD, Geologist



Andrew Snelling, PhD, Geologist

"The past is the key to the present. If you want to understand why the way the world is today, you've got to understand what happened in the past."





"You take the present processes and extend it into the past, not unreasonable, but there's evidence in the rocks themselves that you can't do that."



Kurt Wise, PhD, Paleontologist



"If the fossils of dinosaurs have been dated incorrectly then it's very likely the fossils of any organism has been dated incorrectly; and therefore, then the geologic ages themselves are incorrect."



Kevin Anderson, PhD, Microbiologist



"I believe in change over time, but I'm not an evolutionist."



Robert Carter, PhD
Marine Biologist



"The shark has the ability to change, to adapt, to respond dynamically to the environment—but they're still sharks."



"And when we look at fossil records, they're still sharks."



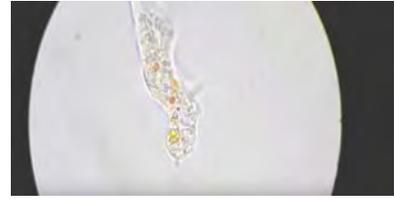
Narrator: "We've been told to look at a history of the earth that is millions and billions of years old. Is there evidence that it could have been created in only a matter of days?"





Paul Nelson, PhD, Philosophy in Science and Evolutionary Biology

"You really need to begin by looking at the governing paradigm; about the history of life and the history of the universe."



Marcus Ross, PhD, Paleontologist

"We've got two possibilities and all the natural history museums in the country all give you just one of those views."



Narrator: "Is there a recorded history that shows us a different view?"





Arthur Chadwick, PhD
Taphonomist



"And when we look at the fossil record we can see the complexity is all there from the beginning and this begs the question of where did all this complexity come from?"



Narrator: "An ancient history recorded in the book of Genesis."



Steven Boyd, PhD, Hebraist



George Grant, PhD, DLitt, DHum
Pastor



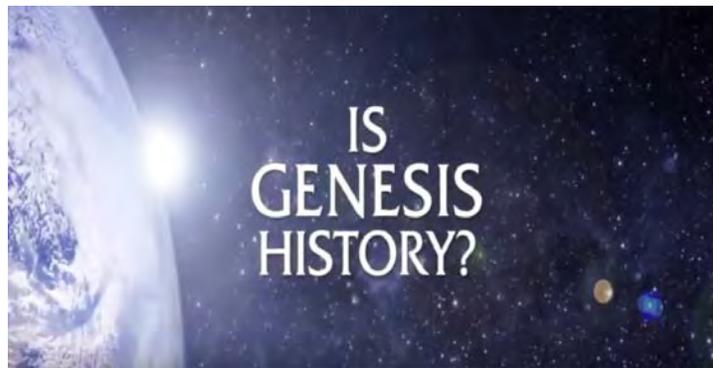
"You have this notion that there is Providence that is then worked out across time in a linear, understandable, traceable fashion."





**Narrator: "We'll come
face to face with an
earth-shattering
question:**

Is Genesis history?"



THE WTA GROUP presents a COMPASS CINEMA production
"IS GENESIS HISTORY?"
hosted by DEL TACKETT, DM
camera RYAN STUFFLEBAM, JASON MARLIN, TOM ZALESKI, JOHN GERHART and DAVID TRENKLE
location sound MICHAEL FIGLIO, JR. sound design NICK PALLADINO
editor RYAN STUFFLEBAM illustrator FORREST DICKISON
executive producers BILL REEVES, BRIAN MITCHELL & ERIK WEIR associate producer IAN KERN
producer, director and writer THOMAS PURIFOY, JR.

[VIDEO TRAILER OF "IS GENESIS HISTORY?" MOVIE]

[Applause]

[Pastor Lee]

Good morning. Okay, so you have to be here this coming Saturday night at 6 o'clock, we're going to be showing that movie. Some of you know that just up until a couple months ago that was showing in the local movie theaters, so we have the opportunity to show it here and Dr. Del Tackett who put that together is going to be here with us Saturday night, Sunday morning, and Sunday night. He'll be teaching on Sunday morning, he's going to be teaching on Sunday night—6 o'clock both Saturday night and 6 o'clock Sunday night. And when he does so he's going to be taking questions from the audience and so you'll be able to come in here and ask anything you want to ask. In fact, we're going to be doing that for the next three Sunday nights at 6 o'clock; we're going to have a teaching and then we're going to have question and answer. And so we want you to feel free to study this, think about that, come up with any questions, and come in here and ask them of the different people that we're going to be having come in to speak to us.

Do grab some of these cards out on the kiosks today. They're doing us no good on the kiosks. You need to be inviting your friends to these times. People are interested in these questions and, by the way, for certain they will come for a movie. So this coming Saturday night, 6 o'clock, come for that movie, we'd love to have you there.

I also wanted to mention, we talked about having the children in here for these sessions because our young people are learning this stuff at school constantly, so bring your kids in and invite them in. And do this, make sure they go to their own classes at kid's gym also, so you'll need to be here both hours. The reason being they're teaching the same material in kid's gym this month. We believe this is incredibly important and we'd love for you to make sure that your family is in here for this. If you're coming in and you're wondering, "Well, how can I come for both hours?" Here's how: Go out there and drink coffee one hour, go ask, "How can I serve one hour?", greet people one hour, and then come in here the other hour. Or come both hours and just take it all in. Either way we love having you here.

By the way, if you see your program—and hopefully you don't feel like you need to be bored enough to read it right now [he holds up a program]—we have so much stuff going on here at Calvary for this summer. We are packed. We do not believe we're just going to shut down. All year long you're busy with school and all this kind of stuff, now you have time—jump in right now. We'd love to have you be a part of it.

So, next weekend, 6 o'clock on Saturday, Dr. Del Tackett, Sunday morning both services, and then Sunday evening at 6 o'clock. I would really encourage you, don't just choose one of the many, come to everything because this is such a subject that has so many questions that need to be answered. So here's the facts everyone wants to know: How did it begin? How did I get here? How did all this get created? And the Bible is clear on the very first pages. For that matter, on the very first words. Genesis chapter 1, verse 1 says this:

In the beginning,

[He points at the audience; they reply]

God

You did better than the first hour. They were like [he grimaces] [laughter]. “*In the beginning*”—very clear as you open up the pages of your Bible—there was a beginning! In that beginning time began; there was eternity prior to that. When there was a beginning time starts. Every time you set an appointment, any time you look at your watch you can say to yourself, *There was a beginning*. And the very next word is so telling; those first three words “*in the beginning*” are one word in Hebrew. The very next word is telling—“*God*”—because here's what it's clearly stating that when the beginning began God already existed. He had existed outside of time. He does exist outside of time. He is eternal. He is self-existing. He created—us.

As we enter into this shall we say conversation together because we're going to have lots of opportunities to give and take, one of the things I know that I'm very aware of is that we've all heard a lot of different things and we come from different places on this and different understandings on this. And sometimes I just wish that we could read the first couple chapters of Genesis with just a fresh, new mind; as if we had never heard any of this before. My guess is most of us haven't even read the first couple of Genesis many times, so maybe we can actually do that and I'd like to request of you to take a few minutes this week and read the first three chapters of Genesis and just try to read them with a fresh new set of information.

I think one of the things that I was blessed with at a very young age I was taught the story of God creating the heavens and the earth, and for me that overrides anything else I hear. There's a simplicity in that. Now, as one who has come to a place where I've read a whole lot of other information, I realize that there's a whole lot of other noise going on out there about this.

We get calls here at the church all the time; speakers wanting to come, music groups wanting to come, and they want to come and speak to you. Shoot, even politicians. All right. We have a stated thing that we say. If you call my assistant she'll just tell you, "If we have an interest in having you, we'll call you." So if you're calling us, no thank you. So basically the way it works around here is when God lays on our hearts something then we go seek the right resources to bring to bear to share with you. That's what we're doing this month. We've really gone out and invested. Dr. Tackett is not an easy person to get. I mean, this guy is at the top of his game. He did THE TRUTH PROJECT many years ago. We went out and sought Dr. Tackett.

Well, a bunch of years ago one of these creation organizations called the church that I was at at that time, a large church, and spoke to my assistant and said, "Hey, we want to come in and do our presentation." And she said, "You know what? We don't do that. Only if we call you." Well, they didn't respond too well to that, they didn't like that answer, that wasn't the answer they wanted, so they continued to call back regularly. And finally she just told them, "Listen, don't call back anymore. We're not interested." Well, they took that and ran with it and began to spread that word that our church was not interested in the creation story, which was not true. In fact, I liked the organization that they were representing. If I at that point had I ever thought about doing a series like this or felt that we were supposed to do a series like this, I probably would have brought them in. And now they started speaking bad about me, and then they started grabbing people that they knew in our church and calling them up and saying, "Your pastor doesn't believe in creation." And they were like, "What?" The guy would treat them like, "What?" And then they'd come and say to me and [he puts his hands up indicating "no" and shakes his head], "No, no, no, no, no, no." And I have to tell you just to be real simple with you, it really put a damper on my feelings on some of this stuff. It just—you know how you just sort of get frustrated when someone comes up against you about something and what they're saying is not true.

In fact, someone said to me this week when I was telling them this story because it's really held me back for a bunch of years because I don't really want to talk about some of these things because I hate being at

odds with people. And they said, "Well, why don't you call out this organization?" And I said, "Well, that's exactly what I don't want to do. One of the things I really want to do as we go through this series these few weeks is I want to deal with facts. I want to deal with scientific facts. I want to deal with biblical facts. I want to deal with what we know. I want to deal with the questions that we have and try to wrestle them through and this kind of thing, and I find that so many times we're looking for a way to call someone out as a heretic and have a litmus test of why they're not any good. And so when certain people find themselves in certain situations, immediately we try to put our finger on them and say they're this or that.

In fact, I had two interesting conversations that just went real short here a few minutes ago. One was one of our school board members in a nearby school district told me, "Actually, we've been talking about this on the school board." You know what? Sometimes I think we have this tendency to think of school boards as bad because they're teaching certain things in our school. We don't want to go after them like that. We want to work within that school board and help them see truth.

I was talking to a public school educator and he said, "Thanks for doing this." Do you believe that? A public school teacher saying, "Thanks for doing this"? I said, "Well, can I come and do an assembly at your school?" Maybe he'll let me. [Laughter] That'd be fun.

Again, what I'm getting at is we have this tendency to immediately take and scientist, "bad"; school board, "bad"; public school, "bad"; this pastor of this church that won't have this organization, "bad". Time out. Word of God is what we stand on here and we're going to get into this and we're going to study it. And over the next few weeks as we study these verses with the different experts we're bringing in, these first 15 chapters of Genesis—I read this week that there are more opinions and more writings on these first 15 chapters than on anything else in the Bible. What that means to me is that as a result of that you all have read many of those writings and you're really smart people, you have thoughts on those writings. You have been educated in public schools, you have been educated in university, and you have opinions on all that. The fact of the matter is whether you have opinions that line up with secular thought processes or you have opinions that line up with biblical thought processes, I am certain that in this room we're a very diverse group of people and I want to celebrate that.

I'm not interested in coming in here and putting my finger on an individual or a group of people and saying, "Bad." I'm interested in opening up this Book and trying to say, "What's the Scripture say?" and I receive those questions back and forth to try to figure out what the Word of God says and to try to think it through and to try to understand this, but we're going to do so in a loving, agreeable, kind way. And at the end of the day the one thing we're going to keep on referring back to as we always do here is this Book. I'm not a scientist, but I love my Bible, and so we can just keep on looking back to this and saying, "What is it that we know?"

Now, I mentioned there are the secular viewpoints on this. There are also probably six, eight, maybe more viewpoints among theologians, those who would say that they're teaching from the Bible. I'm just going to really quickly say a few of them. All right? So one of those is that—and this is one that we would hold to—that God created in six days everything that you see and that they were actually six literal days. There are others who say [in an unconvinced tone], "Yeah, yeah, I think that's okay, but in-between verses 1 and 2" —you may notice in there it says, you know, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters so God there in verse 1 on Day 1 He creates all this matter, He creates space, He creates energy, and then it says the Spirit is hovering over the waters, so there's the thought process that, "Well, maybe that lasted for a lot of time and"—so that would explain what some try to explain that our earth is millions of years old—"maybe there were millions of years between Day 1 and Day 2. And then on Day 2 God created and moved through the creation process."

Some would say that and add on to that a little bit that, "Well, you know what? Actually, it was in-between Day 1 and Day 2 that Ezekiel says Satan fell from Heaven and so you have this cataclysmic event here on this earth and that would explain a lot of the things that scientists are seeing and they're trying to line it up with science." And so that's where they go. And by the way, I have some really good friends that are real solid Bible teachers that would tell you that that is their thought process.

Others would say that the six days of creation are not literal 24-hour days as we know them. You remember the verse that says a day is as a thousand years in the sight of the Lord.¹ So they would say, "Maybe God but He created with a length of time," —and we're going to cover that a lot over the next few weeks and you'll begin to see it. We even covered it a little bit today when we go through these first few verses of Genesis that talk about God creating night and day and separating those and calling it Day 1 and Day 2, so we step back and say, "I'm not so sure about that."

Others would say, "No, we believe in evolution but that God supernaturally superintended over that evolutionary process." Bottom line is, what I'm trying to tell you is that we have a lot of things that we bring to bear in there and we're not going to come up against each other, we're not going to talk sharply to each other. We want this to be a place of unity and love, but I think it's a really, really, really important subject that we need to look at.

One more thing before I blow by this. Theologians, when they look at this subject, are going to look at it through the lens of the Word of God so as they try to figure out some of the things that I just ran through in those five or six subjects, they're going to bring the Bible to bear on those subjects. Here's what we know for certain, we talk about this all the time here at Calvary: the Bible never changes. If we somehow could roll back time and we could sit here 200 years ago—which didn't exist 200 years ago, but just say we could—we would be teaching the exact same message. The same truths that we're going to teach today are the same truths that we would have been teaching 200 years ago, 400 years, or 600 years ago. Science is a constantly changing body of information. Why? Because we gain new technologies, we gain new information that we can build on previous information, and in the course of building on that previous information we understand the world in fresh, new ways.

By the way, when I talk about coming up against each other maybe because we have some different thoughts or philosophies on this, one of the things I want us to be careful of, like I said—we're not going to come up against educators, we're not going to come up against school boards, we're going to continue to speak the truth to all—on the areas that oftentimes happens in these kinds of things and you'll probably hear it a little bit in this but I want us to be very clear up front where I stand on this, is that we come up against scientists. "Well, scientists are wrong in this" and "Scientists are wrong on that,"—let's back up for a minute. That's a real generalization that I think we have to be very, very careful of. A scientist is one who looks at what God has made and studied it. I wish more of us would become scientists and study the complexities and the beauty of what God has created in this universe.

A few years ago I used an illustration in a message in here and when I gave that illustration a gentleman walked up to me at the end of the service and he goes, "Yeah, you said you read that on the Internet this week? I actually developed that technology, that scientific breakthrough. I was the one that developed that." I said, "Are you serious? Tell me about that." And he began to explain it to me and, you know, as many of you are involved in the pharma area here at Calvary, he was involved in the pharma area and he says, "You know, actually I was reading this verse," and he explained it to me and he told me which verse it was and when he had read that verse he said, "It made me think of something so I began and

¹ *But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

~ 2 PETER 3:8

went and started running some tests on it and it led me down to a path that gave me this information." Here's a scientist that started with the Word of God and read the Word of God and believed the Word of God and began to chase down a piece of information they were trying to solve at his workplace based on something that he saw when he was reading the Word of God. I want us to be a group of people that continue to read the Word of God and to see the beauty of what God has created and try to understand it through that lens.

I have a friend who would say to you, "I'm not a believer." He's not a believer. He speaks strongly against Christianity, but he's a really brilliant, brilliant man. He's a doctor. He has developed some technologies that some of you have had done on you in the hospital. And I was talking to him some time ago, he and I love to have these kinds of conversations, and we were talking one day and he said this to me and it stuck with me. He says, "I have in my office two whole bookshelves full of books on the kidney." He says, "We have studied and studied and studied the kidney," but he said, "I can just tell you this, we know nothing about the kidney." So, this is something that is incredibly intricate, has incredible design to it, and he by his very own explanation says, "We haven't even begun to plumb the depths of it." That's why this subject of science is an ever-growing, ever-changing thing and that's okay and that's to be expected, but also to say that the Word of God stays and remains the same.

Here's what I want to dial in: I told you I'm going to cover a couple things today where here are some things that we know for sure. And I would hope that despite our differences in this room you could say, "Yeah, I'm good with that." So let's go with the first one: There was a beginning.



By the very fact that you can look at your watch today and tell time you can agree with me there was a beginning. Time began. Something began. We're trying to figure it out. In trying to figure it out, some of you would say, "Yeah, I'm not sure if I'm with you regarding your Bible. Uhm, I think there was something catastrophic that happened and as a result of that POOF! Here we are."

Here's that kidney. Okay? Others would say, "No," and we would say, "God created.



God created the heavens and the earth, and God supernaturally did it." And I would say to us this morning that there are two options: Something catastrophic is one explanation that is given to us and by the way, it's given to us as fact most of the time going, "This is the only way it could have happened." Or, we say, "No, God it did." By the way, I would say and I will conclude with this today—that both of these require a lot of faith. And I will conclude with this, too—because we weren't there.



But for certain when you look at all of the information that we have out there, these are the two areas that you're going to find yourself coming back to, so that leads us to God, those first words. Remember we said, "In the beginning," —one word—"GOD." So here's what we know is that, "In the beginning, God," we love what has been created. Psalm chapter 19, verse 1, says this:

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

~ PSALM 19:1

His creation, what He's done. And most of us will get the opportunity to open up the screen door in the back of your house today and look outside and enjoy that created creation that He's made. So if you get to travel this summer, you go up on top of a high mountain, you go by the sea, you drive along back country roads, and you'll step back and you'll say, "Wow, God! This is beautiful. Isn't God amazing?!" You just have to look down at your own hand how it moves, what you can do with it, move your arms, your legs, and you say, "Wow, what a God!"

"In the beginning, God created," and so that today puts us for another thing that we're sure of. We know for sure that God created.



Created the heavens above, and He created the earth below. There in those first two verses it says that God created the heavens and the earth. When He created the heavens it was referring to all the space that is above us, but when He created that there in verse 1 it didn't yet have the sun, the moon, and the stars in it. He just created that space. He also created this earth. It talks there about the matter. It speaks of the light, the energy, but this had not yet been formed. It was not what we see and know now, so that would come a little bit later. It says here that it was formless and void.

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² 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.

~ GENESIS 1:1-2

But if you have your Bibles open, I would love to just quickly go through exactly what happened on these six days and I'd love for you to follow through. What I did in my Bible is I underlined some things. At the beginning of each of these verses it says, *"And God said,"* I underlined that. The God of creation spoke these things into being—instantaneously. I think that's important, *"And God said."* And the other thing I circled on each of these when I saw "first day" I circled that, "second day," I circled that, "third day," just so I could get a little bit of spatial recognition if you're using a hard copy like I do; I'm old school on this. And so on Day 1 as I mentioned a moment ago, He created space, He created matter, and He created energy, that light. On Day 2 He created the sky and the sea. On Day 3 He created the dry land and the vegetation.

By the way, you'll hear probably in two weeks that when this text says day one, day two, day three, that gives us a clue by way of context that these are 24-hour days. Because there are other places where it talks about a day and it's talking about a metaphorical day or metaphorical season. But here it gives us context when it puts a number in front of it. AND it gives us another descriptor in front of it when it says, if you look at verse 5:

⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

~ GENESIS 1:5a

What does that feel like? That feels like the 24-hour day that we're used to.

And there was evening and there was morning,

— and then He says —

the first day.

~ **GENESIS 1:5b**

So He really describes what's going on. And I would add this, if you look through your text and actually underline these words, each of these verses after verse 1 begins with the word “*And.*” Only in verse 26 does my translation [ESV] begin with the word “*Then.*” And that word “and” just connects it altogether, so as you look through this text it just keeps on going “and”, “and”, “and”, so you just see this continuous action. I don't see a stopping point here. I see God continuing as I've just read this for the plain meaning of the text, God rolling through these days.

What I found interesting is that by the time you get to Day 4 it's connecting with what happened in Day 1. In Day 1 you have this matter being formed, space being formed, energy, light being formed, and in Day 4 God hangs the lights—the sun, the moon, and the stars—fills this up, fills up this space. So I see Days 1 and 4 connecting. If you move to Day 2, I see Day 2 and Day 5 connecting. So in Day 2 you have the sky and the sea, and in Day 5 you see that God puts birds in that sky and He puts aquatic life into the waters and into the sea. Isn't it sort of cool how that works? And then on Day 3, you remember He created the dry land with the vegetation on that, that connects with Day 6 and on Day 6 He creates the animals and the pinnacle of His creation, mankind; man and woman He places into that creation.

Wow, I just blew through the six days of creation. Do you remember what the 7th day of creation was? God [Audience: “Rested.”]

² *And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.*

~ **GENESIS 2:2**

See, you got it. Do read through it this week because it's helpful to just keep getting this into your head, and I find that I just need to keep on reading it to get it into my head. And hopefully those connections are helpful in even just remembering how they worked together. So here's what we know for sure: There was a beginning, God created, and He's filled this beautiful planet.

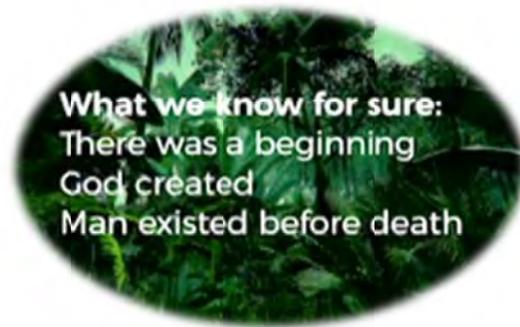
Someone asked me this week an important question that we ask a lot here at Calvary because we can believe certain things and we can stand firm on certain things and say, “Hey, this is how it was,” but there are only a few things that we'd say, “That's a hill I'm dying on”; only a few things that we go, “That—we just can't walk away from that.” So someone asked me this week, “Do you feel like creation is one of those things? And I began to think about that a little bit because at first I thought, *Well, it's important, but how important is it?*”

And as I began to think about that this week I realized this is way important and here's why: If, in the creative process death came before mankind existed, then that would explain the evolutionary process that takes place out of chaos or from some single-celled thing that eventually it develops into these things. If death exists only after mankind is created, then that sort of takes that and jettisons that and takes that off the table. Genesis actually answers this question, and the answer to this question actually says why it might be important for the rest of our Bible.

By the way, over 300 verses in the Bible throughout your Bible describing that God created, so you can't just take the first couple pages, pull them out and say, “Oh, there are many ancient civilizations that had

creation stories, this is just one of them," because if you do so, first of all, you say that this Bible then is not true, that we have better information today. Also, you then have to start pulling out page after page after page throughout your Bible and there are verses that talk about creation that are connected directly with our salvation and you'd have to pull that out—now we don't have an answer for our hope beyond this life. Let me walk you through that.

So here's something that I just want to state clearly and then we'll dig into it in a second. What we know for certain is man existed before death; man existed before death.



So, on the sixth day, verse 27, if you have your Bible open it would be great to just glance at this because you'll sort of see it spatially. Verse 27:

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

So God creates them, places them in the garden where God walks and talks with Adam and Eve. Now remember, God cannot come into the presence of sin—this is a perfect environment that they find themselves in. You'll even notice that God says in verse 28, God says to them:

^{28b} And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply"

~ **GENESIS 1:27 & 28b**

There is no shame at this point. There is no nakedness at this point. There's no infertility at this point. Just be fruitful and you multiply. Oh, by the way, in this garden there's just one rule and you'll see that one rule in chapter 2, verse 17. So creation has occurred. All is here, mankind, man and woman are created now, and if you go to 2:17 you'll see God saying this:

¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,

— okay, one tree, you can't eat of that tree, fine —

for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely

— what's it say? —

[Audience: "Die."]

die."

~ **GENESIS 2:17**

And it's only going to be at the point that they eat of that that death will invade all of this creation. And in that moment everything is fouled, everything is changed; what beauty exists is marred, it's faded, the

freedom that mankind feels, the lack of shame that they feel, all that is changed. Sin changes all of that. So what happens? You remember, mankind says, "God, I know more than You do." Romans 1 characterizes it this way, "considering themselves to be wise, they became fools."² "God! I've got this thing figured out. I've got it now. Don't need You. Thanks for walking with us, but we've got it now. We got information that we didn't have before; that if we eat from that tree our eyes are going to be opened. So thanks, God, but no thanks. We're good. We're good. We got this."

The One who is eternally existed, who created all of this, who is independent of creation, the very creation that He made that is dependent on Him says to the God of the creation, "No, thank you." Claiming to be wise, they became fools, they partook because they thought there was something more that God was holding out on them. They partake and the Scripture says and sin came to all mankind. Romans chapter 5, verse 12, write it down here in this margin as by one man sin entered into the world, and then it says and death by sin, and then it adds this, so all have sinned.

¹² just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

~ ROMANS 5:12

Adam becomes the representative, that's a keyword, representative of all of mankind and his sin is passed on to each one of us because of what he did there in the Garden. And so as we look at that we then look to chapter 3, verse 19. Look what chapter 3, verse 19, says:

¹⁹ By the sweat

— and then these are, should I say the results of the sin? This is what's going to happen and there's a whole bunch more above this, but I'm just going to jump down to verse 19 —

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

~ GENESIS 3:19

And it is there that death comes to all of mankind. Adam is our representative. Now here's what I want you to hear and I don't want you to miss this. Here's why Genesis 1 matters so incredibly much: If you say, "No, we know better. Death came first and it's through a lot of death (and all this kind of stuff) that all this happened that finally we evolved into what we are now, then there is no God and there is no Savior Jesus. The way God describes this isn't what happened and we can't trust this account." It is in this account that it says because man fell, because Adam represented us and that sin nature was passed on to us, God would send His representative, what He calls a "second Adam", Jesus Himself, to come to the created ones, the creation that He had created to represent righteousness and holiness. To live a holy life, to never sin, and to He himself—Jesus Christ Himself—take on the punishment that was due us—death—even death on a cross, to bring about our forgiveness. This story fits together. If you take away the first part of the story, you have no reason for Jesus to come. So to say, "Well, we believe in Jesus. I'm good with Jesus, but this story we know better. We've realize that just doesn't work. So I can go to church every week and as long as they're not talking on that I'm good to go." If you get rid of that story, there's no reason for a Savior.

² For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ~ ROMANS 1:18-22

Job was going through a very tough time. You may remember the story of Job, oldest story in your Bible. Job chapter 38, verse 1, says this:

¹ *Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:*

⁴ *“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?”*

~ **JOB 38:1 & 4**

Who do you think you are that you figured it all out? That you know more? That you can tell Me how it's going to go? God says, "I created this earth. I was here when I laid the foundation of this earth." Again, going back, in one of the earliest writings of Scripture God's saying, "I did it. I created this. And if I'm the one who created this, you're going to have to come and you're going to have to trust on Me." And if we as a people have failed and we find ourselves miserably lost, which we so oftentimes do, we need to come back to God Himself. We need a Savior that we can turn to, and that's the Good News, that's the Gospel of the Scripture. That's the Light. And I would submit to you that much of the rejecting the truth that goes on today is in full knowledge by the enemy that without a Creator and without original sin there's no need for a Savior. And if there's no need for a Savior, then the enemy has us all where he wants us.

So I want to wrap up with these words. What do we know for sure? We know for sure that believing on creation is going to require faith. Oh, by the way, I would go so far as to say believing in evolution requires faith. I gave you just two options. And when you choose to believe that God created the earth in six days, you weren't there. That's what He said to Job, "*Where were you...?*" It's going to require faith. Now remember the Scripture says faith comes by the hearing, and the hearing of the Word of God.³ And that's why we're going to keep on coming back to this [Bible] and saying, "Yeah, but look at this." That's why I'm going to ask you to continue to read your Bible and to come back to this. We were not here at the beginning. No one else you're having conversations with was here at the beginning. All those who say, "Yeah, yeah, I know, I know better," they weren't here at the beginning and they haven't been able to reproduce a beginning. And it requires faith. You have to decide what you're going to have faith in.

Here at Calvary we have said this Book is God's Word. It's truth. It's always truth. It never changes. I'm going to put my faith and my trust in the God of this Bible, which says you know what? You're not a product of random chance. You weren't just sort of a big catastrophe that has gotten better and now you exist. He says you are a result of a loving God and He says I loved you so much that even when you messed up I stepped into your creation, I stepped into your mess to redeem you. And if you hear something real loud and clear today through all of the theme of this message it's this is the story of God's love for you. I want you to feel God's love for you. I want you to know God's love for you.

So here's what I'd love to do, I'd love to invite you to Jesus. If you've never put your trust in Jesus, would you do that today? This all fits together, amazing, and He loves you so much that He gave His life for you. If you believe in random chance, you're in a spot where everything else moving forward is random chance. There was no hope how we'd get here, there's no hope how we're going to get out of here. I offer you a message of hope today.

So that's why here in a moment all those guys that just walked out, they're not mad [*laughter*], that was quite a display. Did anyone not see that? [*Laughter.*] I was just like, *I oughta stop now*. Seriously, they were going out to get the communion because on this day we felt that it would be a very good thing to just stop and focus in on Jesus and what He did for us; that we aren't hopeless and lost and without

³ *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.* ~ **ROMANS 10:17**

meaning. We have life; life that is found in the name of Jesus. So in the book of 1 Corinthians let me read it to you, Paul said:

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

~ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-25

This is an amazing moment to just step back, and you guys can start passing the communion elements. There's two cups in there; just grab both of those cups, it's in a stack. In the bottom of the cup is the bread, and the top of the cup is the grape juice. Jesus left this for us so we could just step back and take a moment this morning and remember Him. So that we could have the hope that God loves us and knows us. We were fearfully and wonderfully made as the Psalm says,⁴ and He cared about every little detail of our life. And so the fact that He brought salvation, He's changed us.

If you've put your trust in Jesus, today's the day to just remember that. If you haven't put your trust in Him yet, we'd love to talk to you afterwards. The people back in our Prayer Chapel right afterwards would love to pray with you. But for right now, would just take those elements and just focus in on Jesus as you do so. I'm just going to give you a moment as the team leads us [in worship].

[Break]

His body was broken. He loves you. He gave Himself for you. Meditate on those words and think of the fact that on the night He was betrayed He took the bread and He broke it and He gave it to His disciples and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

[They take the bread.]

And then He took the cup and said this cup is the new covenant of my blood. Do this as often as you drink in remembrance of me." In so doing, remember Him until He returns. Let's drink together.

[They take the cup.]

Would you just bow your heads for just a moment? Don't let this moment slip by; just allow yourself to be overwhelmed by Jesus.

Thank you, Lord, that as your blood brings us together, people from so many different walks of life in here this morning, there are so many different backgrounds but we come to You, Jesus, our Creator, the God of the universe, and just say thank you.

Can you echo those words with me, "Thank you, Jesus"?

Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Take a moment right now to give our gifts and tithes and our offerings back to Jesus. I know many of you have prepared for that. I know many of you give through the SecureGive app on your phone, some give through a direct deposit in your bank account. You know, we have a lot going on over the summer in these next few weeks bringing all these speakers in and it's because of your giving that makes it

⁴ *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.* ~ **PSALM 139:4a**

possible for us to just continue to get the Word of God out there boldly, so thank you for giving. If you're at the end of a row, if you'll just grab that bucket and pass it across we'd greatly appreciate of your doing that.

[Break]

Amen. Thanks for worshipping with us today. Make sure you put Saturday on your calendar, 6 o'clock. Make sure you put Sunday on your calendar, 9:30 and 11. Make sure you put Sunday night on your calendar, 6 o'clock.

Hey, one other thing real quick. Right as soon as this service is over we're going to be having a luncheon for anyone who's interested in jumping in with us on our mission to Senegal. So that's 12 years our church has been going over there and doing amazing things among this one village there and I got to go there several months ago. And the thing that I'm amazed at is just what has been accomplished there and it's just a great way for you to jump in and be involved. I want to see a whole bunch of you get to go like I got to go and be a part of just seeing this new church there that has occurred because Calvary gave and went and did what they were supposed to do. So I know a lot of you talk to me oftentimes and say, "One of these days I want to go on one of these." Right now you get a free lunch. [Laughter.] Anything else I need to say? Right through those doors [points to his right]. If you all come, we're going to cut up the food really, really small [laughter]. But seriously, I would love if you've ever thought about going on one of these missions trips, Senegal is one of our main focus areas and we would love to have you come and join us. It's going to be right through those doors, I believe it's called Seminar 2. You'll see it over there.

Have a wonderful week. Thanks for being here. Don't rush out of here. Enjoy each other. Encourage each other. God bless you. Have a wonderful Sunday.

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/220217242>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Miq51Rvnchc>

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