

The Creator & Sustainer of Life

John 1:4-5 continued.....

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

Good morning to all our church family.

I trust and hope that we are well rested and staying as safe as we can, but let us know that we can rest even greater in the Lord Jesus as He is always there for us to call upon.

Previously on the Lords day we focused on “Who is the Creator” of heaven and earth, and this week we continue with the same theme in mind.

We find that both in the OT and the NT that the LORD has always been there for anyone to call upon him for salvation and in a time of need.

Although the people in the OT looked through the eyes of the prophets of God, and the NT says for now we also look through a glass more darkly (1 Corinthians 13:12), we on the other hand have seen through the NT Apostles writings which recorded the actual death burial and resurrection of Jesus; we are therefore more fortunate in being able to see the Lords ministry here on earth in His person.

- In other words, the OT prophesied about the coming of the Messiah and the NT declares the arrival of the Messiah who is Jesus Christ.
- ✚ As we are looking at the Creator of heaven and earth today and as we saw in a previous Sunday message, we see also that as the title says that the creator is also the “sustainer of life”.

Colossians 1:16-18 - King James Version

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, **and by him all things consist.**

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

- ✚ The primary focus of the book of John is to set forth the God of creation, our creator of heaven and earth. It is also a book to bear witness for the Lord as our only creator and redeemer of all creation.

- ✓ The bible tells us that now all creation groans under the strain of sin, and it is only possible for it to be relieved and set straight by the hand of our creator and savior of the world.

Romans 8:21-23

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

- ✚ Who is the one that can make things right again, but the God who was responsible for his creation.
- ✚ For if the wages of sin is death, then the only one that can save us is our Lord Jesus. The whole world groans because of sin that has set forth evil in its place, and that evil left unchecked is what has caused the earth and all its inhabitants to groan. Even the creation itself is under much pressure because of sin in this world.
 1. The average man has not bothered to find out why the world we live in is so fallen and corrupt. They ascribe the morality of man as something that is natural and is subject to evolutionary changes.
 2. The average man has no hope but to make himself “the master of his own destiny”. He is trying to gain control of his life through riches and good fortune.
 3. Many religions have caused much damage to men’s perception of the truth and so has much to be blamed for turning them away from the real truth.
 4. Even if this were not the case, the bible still says that “if they seek me they will find me”.
- ✚ Even in the OT the LORD said if you seek me you will find me.

Jeremiah 29:13

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Isaiah 55:6

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

- ✓ So, by no means is salvation only a NT doctrine.
- ✚ Just because we don’t get the truth of something the first time does not give us the right or the justification to give up trying to find the truth.

✚ So, everyone's responsibility is to "seek the Lord" whilst he may still be found.

1. When the LORD said that He is the sustainer of life, it's not just that he is holding the whole world or the creation of heaven and earth in place, which includes the planets, stars and seasons, and everything else..... but he is saying much more than that.

Think about that for a moment.

2. The "Sustainer of Life" is a measure of what God Has made new. The new soul has life.
3. The sustainer is the one who sustains an eternal salvation and a heavenly home to all those that believe in Him. (the sustainer of life).
4. The sustainer of life (Jesus) our Lord has been given the commandment of God the Father; to Jesus Christ His only begotten Son to be that sustainer of life.

So the creator is also the sustainer of life.....

Acts 17:26-28

²⁶ And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

²⁷ That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

✚ As we take out our text again this morning to read about our Lord and his creation we should do so with thanks giving in our heart, that the Lord would have left his word for us to know him.

Every day people that we meet and see in the street are all people that need the Lord.

We see people flying from country to country, and we see people in cars milling around on the streets and highways of the cities, and remote rural roads, moving around as if to be oblivious to the future outcome of their lives.

1. The thought crossed my mind "does the Lord know about all these people out there"?
2. Yes, he does and he also knows about all the people in the churches, and those that are at home.
3. He is an all-knowing God the bible tells us, and nothing can escape His full attention.

✚ Yet the thought of all those unbelieving people perishing because they do not know the Lord is sad, and frightening to say the least, and that is why God is sending you and me and others to do something about it?

The Lord Jesus told us that all power is given unto Him.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

¹⁹ **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

²⁰ **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

- ✓ Jesus did not say stay in the church building and evangelize, but rather he said “Send the light the blessed gospel”. This can be seen in Matthew 28 verse 19 and 20.
- ✚ That “**something**” that we can do is to tell those near to us about the Lord’s judgment upon them if they do not turn to the Lord in time?

So, let’s look at the scripture again this morning of John 1:1-4.

So, when we look to answer the question of the first verse in John 1:1, we have to realize it is talking about Jesus Christ our creator of this world. The “in the beginning statement” is the testimony of who Jesus is. It is his eternal self existing statement of being one with the Father in heaven.

- ✓ It is only when we get to Genesis 1:26 that we finally realize that there is a triune Godhead. The statement of that verse is what forever will lead mankind to wonder about the Godhead described here in God’s Word.
- ✓ Some will embrace it whilst others will reject it.

So, as we saw in a previous Sundays message “who is the Creator”

Genesis 1:26

²⁶ **And God said, Let us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

1. We can comfortably answer the questions today that we have seen answered here in the scriptures this morning.

Namely:

1. Who is the WORD?
2. When did the WORD exist?
3. Who is responsible for creation?
4. Who is the sustainer of Life?

²The same was in the beginning with God.

1. Jesus Christ our Lord. (The Word).
2. Eternal with God the Father.

³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

1. He is responsible for all creation.
2. Everything in creation was made by Jesus Christ.
3. That includes heaven and earth, and man.
4. The answer to all creation is found in the bible.
5. The book of Genesis speaks of the creation coming into existences and testifies of the creator.

✚ Whilst the New Testament continues to deliver the same message of Genesis, we are thankful to the Lord that we have had the opportunity to be certain of our creator, king and redeemer.

✚ When we read the following verses in **John 1 verse 14 and 18** we again begin to realize the confirmation of the position Jesus Christ our Lord holds.

1. If there is any further doubt as to who Jesus Christ our Lord is.
2. **The bible attests to us here that there has never been a time when any man has ever seen God the Father.**
3. **Yet the bible also attest here, that the one and only to see God the Father has been the only begotten Son which has always been in the bosom of His Father.**

✚ No amount of imagination is necessary to see who Jesus is?

✚ Yet there are still people today who will not believe it to be so, that Jesus is God.

The question for us today, and the message for us today is this?

1. What does Jesus mean to you?
2. What position do you ascribe to Jesus Christ?
3. Do you truly believe what the Bible says about Him? That He is God. (Hebrews 1:8).
4. Do you believe that He is the sustainer of Life?

IN HIM WAS LIFE:

✚ As we get to verse 4 in our text this morning we begin to see the reason of Jesus Christ our Lords entrance into his creation.

⁴In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

1. The bible ascribes that Jesus Christ is alive for two reasons. He was both alive and well in heaven just as well as he was alive and well on earth.

2. The reason for his physical appearance here on earth was that there needed to be a sacrificial lamb that would be capable of a sacrificial death that was worthy to take away that sting of death and sin in the world.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?


⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.


⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The life of his sacrifice (the life greater than sin) was to be a perfect and suitable one in order to defeat the lineage of Adams sin in the world. A sacrifice worthy for all sin, and for all sinners to accept his free gift. A perfect Atonement.

Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb** that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

4. There are many people today who still lament over a loved one's passing. They lament as if they will never see their loved ones again, and I am talking here about those that profess (believe on Jesus Christ as their Saviour) and have loved him so. Yet they still cannot give up the fact that a loved one has gone to be with the safe keeping of the Lord.
5. Yet it will only be the comforting hand of the Lord to help that person understand that the "believer" is not lost forever, but safe in the loving arms of Jesus our Lord until the Lord returns.

 We have a great commission from the Lord to spread His word of eternal life to all we may have a chance to engage with.


 It is not for us to get the lost saved, but it is for us a mandate to present the gospel of truth and salvation to the lost. Then and only then can the Spirit of God work in that person's life, to either accept or reject the truth of God.


Romans 6:3-5

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

 It's not a healthy thing to keep questioning the Lord as to why?

 Or to keep a saddened countenance over a loved one's passing.

- ✚ Yes, we do continue to miss their presence here in the physical world and we cannot interact with them anymore.
- ✚ But we need to rejoice that their passing has been a joyful event because they got to be within the Lord's presence now, even though we are still here and waiting for that day to come, and come that day will.

6. **"In him was life"** is what our text tells us this morning, and it continues to be so. The Lord said, **if it was not so he would have told us?**

John 14:1-3

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

7. Our life that the Lord has given us is a fragile life and it can be shortened at any moment, therefore the Lord said that we should always be prepared for that moment when we might have to suddenly depart.

- ✚ The book of James reminds us that our life is like a vapor, it appears but as soon as it has come it is gone again.

James 4:14

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. **For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**

8. In Jesus Christ our Lord is life. The bible is reminding us here that it is the Life of all men. Apart from Jesus Christ our Lord we cannot have eternal life.

- ✚ So, the life described here is for men to know that Jesus holds the key of eternal life, and that key is the key to our salvation.

Philippians 2:12

¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

- ✚ Paul the apostle reminds us that it might be easy for us to name the name of the Lord while we are among other professing Christians, like those that were around Paul at the time, but it is much more difficult when we are by ourselves.
- ✚ Therefore, we are to continue in fear working out our own salvation with the Lord. To work out your own salvation is an individual call from the scriptures for each person to individually believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation.

9. It is He who holds the key to heavens door to let us in, and if we are not in His will (having believed in Jesus as our Lord and Savior) he will not let us or anyone else in with the same unholy desires. (no belief John 3:18).
10. The Lords life is therefore the light of men who seek him.

⁵And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

1. Just imagine for a moment with me that you are walking in the dark, down a lonely wide and rocky road.
2. As you continue to walk you walking blindly in the dark, not knowing what you going to step on next. You walk in trepidation and fear that you might step on or in something that would hurt or injure you in some way. Yet you have no choice but to continue walking, bumping and scraping your feet and heels, and twisting your ankles on rocks and objects you just cannot see.
3. In bush ware fare you can walk for hours upon hours or days in this manner. Each day resting only to walk in the dark of night again that evening.

The above illustration is exactly what is going on with men who walk blindly in the world without God and our Lord Jesus Christ who is God by the way.

How foolish and how tiresome it is to walk this way.

- That is why the bible tells us that “**the life was the light of men**” in verse 4 of our text.
 - Man needed that light to show them the rocky roads of their lives. Yet that light was not going to force himself upon those people who needed it.
1. Do you know what happens when you walk down that dark lonely rocky road, and someone turns on a light?
 2. All of a sudden, the darkness has nowhere to hide. In every place where the light shines, darkness is given up, and it comprehends it not. That is what the scripture is telling us.
 3. You cannot have darkness where there is light. Even a very small light is sufficient to break the darkness. And that is the same way in the scriptures. When a man receives the light of the Gospel it is sufficient to change the mans heart from darkness into light.

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

4. We are called to bring the scriptures to people’s lives. We have not been called to change them. It is the Holy Spirit of God who changes lives and causes that light who is Christ to shine in their lives.

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be **ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a **reason** of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:**

5. Never feel that it is your obligation to get **“them saved”**. We cannot do that. But let us do feel that it is our obligation to **“preach the word”** to them. And to give them hope of the reason that is within us.

Acts 15:35

Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and **preaching the word of the Lord**, with many others also.

- We are called to be instant in season.
- That is to be ready with the word of God to give an answer to those who ask.

2 Timothy 4:1-3

¹ I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

² **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.**

³ **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

- ✚ The message that John has brought us this morning is to remind us that the light (Jesus Christ our Lord) has been shining for a very long time (that is our time since creation), for men to repent (turn to Jesus and believe in Him) and to be saved. ⁵ **And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**

4. But men have not always obeyed His voice in the scriptures, even Isaiah tells us in the O.T. that they did not hear and obey the Lord.

Isaiah 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

- ✚ And so did Matthew say the same thing about some of the people.

Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

- ✚ And so did Luke in the book of acts report the same things about some of the people.

Acts 28:27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

5. So let us not be surprised at the hardness of men's hearts to the light. The light of the gospel.
6. Not every person that receives the message of light will turn towards that light. We may spend the rest of our lifetime witnessing to our families and to others and never know if even one person will be accepted of the Lord. Yet we must continue in this way to preach the gospel of the kingdom, as the king has called us to do so.

2 Timothy 1:10 But is now made manifest **by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:**

- ✚ We must remember that the in this world is Satan and he would like nothing better than to blind the eyes and hearts of men.
- ✚ Let's not give place to the devil, but serve our risen Savior Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

- ✚ That is why it is not our responsibility to get people saved. That is the Lord's work. Because we battle against invisible forces and powers and principalities.
7. The bible is quite clear as to our instructions and how we need to defend ourselves in this spiritual battle. When we enter the Lords army we begin to fight a spiritual battle.
 8. This battle is not only against others and for others but it is also a battle in which we have engaged for our own spiritual ware fare and therefore we also need to tread wearily just as if we were in a physical battle and could succumb to injuries.

Ephesians 6:11-13

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

9. We need to remember, that this is not a game we are playing. It is a real battle against good and evil.
 - ✓ I remember when my grand daughter was only three years old she used to walk around our house when they came to visit and she used to say over and over again as she would play "I'm in the Lords army Yes Sir".
 - ✓ And that is true, we need to remember that always.

LET US BOW BEFORE THE LORD ON HIS THRONE.

- Let us reflect each day upon the grace and mercy that Jesus our Saviour has given to us.
- Let us be prepared to share the gospel of our creator and sustainer of life.
- The creator and sustainer of life both here on earth as well as in heaven is Jesus Christ our Saviour, who shares the glory with His Father in heaven.

Our God who is one God, and three persons.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.

1 John 5:7. (King James Version)

⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

THE CREATOR AND SUSTAINER OF LIFE.

PRAYER.....CLOSE