

3/19/2023 - Speaker: Al Schaap

Series: Foundations

Message: Father God, The One Who Cares For Us

Scriptures: Matthew 6:25-34 (p. 960f.)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God The Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Who is God? What do I need to believe about Him?

I trust God so much that I do not doubt He will provide whatever I
need for body and soul,⁴ and will turn to my good whatever adversity
He sends upon me in this sad world.⁵ God is able to do this because
He is almighty God⁶ and desires to do this because He is a faithful
Father.⁷ (Genesis 18:14; Romans 8:31-39; Matthew 7:9-11)

Matthew 6:25-34

God is The One Who:

- C _____ us (and our world) – cf. Genesis 1,2
- C _____ for us (and our world) – Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17
- C _____ us (and our world) – Deut. 28; Job 1, 38-42

Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. The almighty and ever present power of God¹ by which God upholds, as with His hand, heaven and earth and all creatures,² and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—³all things, in fact, come to us not by chance⁴ but by His fatherly hand.⁵ (¹ Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-28; ² Hebrews 1:3; ³ Jeremiah 5:24; Acts 14:15-17; John 9:3; Proverbs 22:2; ⁴ Proverbs 16:33; ⁵ Matthew 10:29)

Q. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

A. We can be patient when things go against us,¹ thankful when things go well,² and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from His love. ³ For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without His will they can neither move nor be moved.⁴

(¹ Job 1:21-22; James 1:3; ² Deut. 8:10; 1 Thess. 5:18; ³ Ps. 55:22; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:38-39; ⁴ Job 1:12; 2:6; Prov. 21:1; Acts 17:24-28)

Questions to consider with God:

- *How have you seen God's providence – His Fatherly care & control – of your life?*
- *How has that become clearer when you look BACK over your life to this point?*
- *How can that change your attitude and trust in your living today?*

Key: creates, cares, controls