

## “In the Beginning God Created the Heaven and the Earth”- Genesis 1:1

**Propositional Statement:** Although God has created all things out of nothing, we his creatures deny the reality of his revelation in creation.

**I.O.W:** We his creatures, become creators ourselves! We “create” myths to account for the order, beauty, and symmetry of the creation. We “create” myths to account for *who we are* and from *whence we came!* Man has always done this throughout history!

**FCF:** Although God has created all things out of nothing, and *clearly revealed himself* in the work of his hands, we have exchanged the truth of God for a lie. We have created myths to explain our existence so that we are not morally responsible for the truth that God has revealed to us!

### Introduction

Origins. We all want to know from *whence we come!* For instance, when did our people first come to the United States for the first time? You see, *our past enlightens our present*, so we seek our origins so that we might have a true sense of our own personal history. Some search genealogical tables to find out their particular origins. If this is true personally, as an individual, how much more is true for who we are as human beings.

Even though some individuals have a particular interest in their origins, the whole human race, every individual that lives wants to know how she *got here* so to speak! The question is asked within the person: “Hod did I get here on this tiny planet, in this tiny solar system, surrounded by great galaxies?” For us today, it is an even more pressing question for man because we have developed scientifically in such a way, that these questions seem to get louder from within us!

We look under the microscope and can see tiny organisms, little worlds; we can send men and women into space. We send telescopes and cameras into space to give us perspectives and information we have never had about our origins as human beings. Yet no matter how much information these scientific discoveries reveal to us, they can never satisfy the questions found in the deepest and innermost place in our hearts! Man’s heart is restless, it longs to know of his true origins.

So did the Israelites! Restless hearts. Man’s search for origins in order to find dignity, to be able to better define *who man is*. Myths that man makes in order to explain his existence in this world. The Past informs our Present. We are not the only people who have tried to tell the *story* of our origins.

### Outline

- I. **The God who sovereignly begins- All things (the heavens and the earth-*merism*), had their beginning through a creative act of God.**
  - A. **God does not begin (He is Eternal) - -but time does with creation:** The Psalmist declares the Eternity of God the Creator. He exclaims:

Ps. 90:2- Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God.

**B. Creatio Ex Nihilo- Creation “out of nothing”** (or “into nothing”):

- **What is a “Creation out of (or into) nothing?”** God created by an act of his Sovereign will. There was not pre-existing *stuff* (that is why I believed it important to preach last week on the existence of the Eternal Trinitarian God who existed before all things). This shows God’s sheer power by an act of his will to bring all things into existence by his power!
- Hey, but I thought *ex nihilo, nihil fit* - -“out of nothing, nothing comes”. Everything effect truly must have a cause. *Ordinarily*, “out of nothing, nothing comes”, but for God- - he *creates* by his powerful word, *and it is so*. IOW: “Out of nothing, something truly can come according to the Biblical account because God acts by his Sovereign will and it is done! Listen to this magnificent truth from Psalm 33:

6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He **spoke**, and it was *done*; He commanded, and it stood fast.

- God is the Sovereign Creator, who creates *into nothing*. Moses is teaching in Gen. 1:1, that absolutely nothing existed except God from eternity. But in the beginning, God created the *heaven and earth*, WITH TIME, not *in time*. God created time along with the heaven and the earth- - that is *all things!* The apostle Paul captures this truth of God creating that which did not exist before when he speaks of God’s testing of Abraham in Rom. 4:17:

“...as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" -- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and *calls into existence the things that do not exist.*”

**C. Toledot in Genesis:**

- Gen. 2:4: “These are the *toledot of the heavens and the earth.*”
- Gen. 5:1: “This is the book of the *toledot of Adam.*”
- Gen. 6:9: “These are the *toledot of Noah.*”
- Gen. 10:1: “These are the *toledot of Shem, Ham, and Japheth...*”
- Gen. 11:10: “These are the *toledot of Shem.*”
- Gen. 11:27: “These are the *toledot of Terah.*”
- Gen. 25:12: “These are the *toledot of Ishmael.*”
- Gen. 25:19: “These are the *toledot of Isaac.*”
- Gen. 36:1: “These are the *toledot of Esau.*”
- Gen. 36:9: [Repeat] “These are the *toledot of Esau.*”
- Gen. 37:2: “These are the *toledot of Jacob.*”

- Moses teaches the Israelites in Genesis the narrowing down of the line of promise to them. If they trace it back from “Father Jacob” (who was renamed “Israel), they will go back to their *origins*, to their beginnings. But you might ask: “Why did not Moses use the *toledot* formula of the *generations* to explain *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth?* Perhaps to avoid any identification of God with the creation. The creation stories or myths of surrounding pagan nations (not to mention Moses’ own education in pagan Egypt) all say in one way or another, that the creation is *materially derived* from divinity. Moses avoids this by saying God created *all things* out of absolutely **NOTHING!**
- IOW: There is no *toledot* of God. The “heaven and the earth” is not derived from God. The creation is not a product of divine ‘substance’ as was popular during these times in the ANE. God is just not part of the history of things in that way. God created the heavens and the earth out of **NOTHING!** Moses does not begin *Genesis* with *This is the toledot of God* because ‘the heaven and the earth’ did not come out of God. History is not eternal as the pagans taught. It is not simply an extension of the life of God. The ‘heaven and the earth’ came out of nothing! And God made it come out of nothing!

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- **Creation “out of nothing” unique:** Although Israel’s pagan neighbors had created their own creation myths to account for their existence, Genesis is absolutely unique. It is interesting to note that in all of the pagan *myths* the idea of *creation ex nihilo* was never considered! The pagan god would always form perhaps with pre-existent *stuff*, or matter, but never did the pagans ever conceive of a creation out of, or into absolutely nothing! That is why it boggles the mind to consider such a thing, but this is what our gracious God communicates to us through Moses in the Book of Genesis.
- Although there are similarities between the Genesis account and some of the pagan creation accounts (particularly the Babylonian creation myth discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is helpful in considering the uniqueness of Genesis in its historical context), it is the *dissimilarities* that must be pointed out! Now remember: the pagan creation *myths* were attempts at finding answers to their origins without a moral commitment to the true God; as well, the pagan creation myths were *perversions* of the truth! For instance, in the Babylonian creation myth, Marduk the god wars against Tiamat the great sea dragon or serpent. It is out of Tiamat’s body once Marduk has put him to death, that he creates the world. There is not indication where Marduk and Tiamat came from! Also, notice the ease with which God creates! He creates all things in heaven and upon the earth with no conflict at all! He simply speaks and it is done. Isaiah 45 says:

5 I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other; *There is* no God besides Me...That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That *there is* none besides Me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other; 7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these *things*.' ...I have made the earth, And

created man on it. I -- My hands -- stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded... "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other. I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.

- Israel was to be taught as they were about the enter the Promised Land of Canaan, that their Sovereign Creator was the *only* God who truly existed! He was the only God who truly created *out of nothing!* He was unique and their salvation to be witnesses to this truth was unique! The only true account of creation that had not been perverted by fallen man's escape from God's moral authority was taught to them in Genesis 1:1. This is true for us today. The Israelites were not the only people of God who were surrounded by *creation myths*- - so are we today!
- Pagan philosophers in the past were accustomed to asking questions of Scripture that Scripture did not address. Like this one: "What was God "doing" in his Trinitarian existence *prior to* the creation?" Pagan philosophers tried to ascend into the secret things of the Lord, not revealed in his Word. In reply to the question, Augustine said: "God was busy in eternity, prior to creation, heating up the fires of hell for the curious!" We must remember our Deuteronomy 29:29 caution: "The *secret things* belong to the Lord our God, but the revealed things to us and to our children after us."

**No place for speculation- - but there is no place for alternatives to creation either!**

#### **A. Alternatives to Creation- Pantheism, Materialism, and Dualism**

- 1) Pantheism: (Emanationistic) No distinction between the Creator and his creation. God emanates in his creation. The Creator and the creation develop together as it were and the creation is as much divine as the Creator himself is. But Hebrews 1:10-12 teaches that there is a *huge* difference between the Creator and the creation:
 

10 And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."
- 2) Materialism: (Evolutionistic) Usually posits in some way eternal matter. Matter and God existed alongside one another. Matter had to have an origin, so anti-creationists theorize and posit the equation of *chance*, plus *change over time*, equals what we have today!
  - Illustration: The National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), in their official 1997 statement in teaching of evolution, wrote: "The diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution: an unpredictable and natural process of temporal descent with genetic modification that is affected by natural selection, *chance*, historical contingencies and changing environments."

- Their earlier version of this statement called evolution and “unsupervised, impersonal, unpredictable, and natural process.” This is what has been popularly known as *Darwinism*.
- There is also the very popular belief in the so-called *Big Bang*. According to this *myth*, the entire universe including matter, energy, space and time – all came into being from an infinitesimal point in a gigantic explosion about 15 billion years ago!

**This is not only harder to believe than the creation account, it is getting harder for even the scientists to believe this!**

- Robert Jastrow quote: (Scientist who calls himself *agnostic*, who wrote a wonderful book a few years back entitled: *God and the Astronomers*. He wrote concerning science’s plight and persistent problem of teaching the origins of the universe. He said: “A sound explanation may exist for the explosive birth of our Universe, but if it does, science cannot find out what that explanation is. The scientist’s pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation. This is an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by all but the theologians. They have always accepted the word of the Bible, “In the beginning, God created the heaven and earth.” To which St. Augustine added, “Who can understand this mystery or explain it to others?” The development is unexpected because science has had such an extraordinary success in tracing the chain of cause and effect backward in time...Now we would like to pursue that inquiry farther back in time, but the barrier to further progress seems insurmountable. It is not a matter of another year, another decade of work, another measurement, or another theory; at this moment it seems as though science will never be able to raise the curtain on the mystery of creation.”

“...For the scientist who has lived by faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

- The author to the *Hebrews* says it like this:
 

11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
- a. Sometimes there is a “theistic-evolutionary” view of creation. These will change the Hebrew meaning of Genesis 1:1 from “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” to “When God began to create the heavens and the earth...”
- 3) Dualism: (Dualistic) This is a pagan notion (found in many pagan religions of the Ancient Near East, particularly in Babylonian and Persian religion). What it teaches simply is that God and Evil are like equal foes - -one fighting against another- - it is a variation on the theme of polytheism or believing in many gods. Dualism believes that God is not the sole and ultimate and sovereign Creator, but that he has an equal in Evil, which he must destroy somehow in order to, create the world and renew all things.

- Summary of the truth of Genesis 1:1:
  - (1) Creation in the Bible is *more than* God artistically arranging existing material (although he does form the material over the six days of creation, this matter did not exist until God created *ex nihilo*). God is not merely a Divine Architect or Builder who works with what is at hand (like my dad used to make birdhouses out of leftover wood that he had from building).
  - (2) Creation is not an emanation of God. Creation is distinct *from* but never separated from God, because God is omnipresent, or *everywhere-present!*
  - (3) Creation is not a natural product in the sense that a child is procreated by its parents. In other words, there is no organic connection between God, the Divine Creator, and the Cosmos, or the creation. God *is Creator* - He creates “out of nothing”!
  
- Application: The unique truth of God’s creating “out of nothing” has very practical implications for us as Christians today. (1) We notice that there should always be prominent in our minds a *distinction* between the Eternal Creator and we his creatures! (2) While God is *distinct from* the creation, he is never separated from it! God is not the so-called ‘Watchmaker’ that some Christians make him out to be, who merely gets creation off to a start and then is not providentially and intimately involved in it. Although Pantheism, or emanationism is incorrect, all things are indeed *from him, through him, and to all things...to God be glory!* as Romans 11 teaches. (3) Creation is good and not something to be “escaped” as the early Greeks who wanted to escape to the *pure spirit realm* and escape from the *prison-house* of the body. While we confess our sins and the sins of this fallen world order- - we should *never* as Christians lament our humanity, nor the creation that God has created for his glory and our good! Despite the fall, we should still have the perspective of Genesis one, particularly for those *in Christ!* We should be extremely concerned about the creation mandate or order of God to “be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it...” To rule over the creation as God has commanded his people to do! Particularly in teaching and living the gospel according to the *Great Commission*.

#### **Concerning Science as a modern “creation myth”:**

- The late E. J. Young said: “Although ‘Genesis’ does not purport to be a textbook of science, nevertheless, when it touches upon scientific subjects, it is accurate. Science has never discovered any facts which are in conflict with the statements of Genesis 1.”
- Remember the quote from E.J. Young last week: “*Genesis* is primarily concerned about *who* created and *why*- -not about *how* and *when*. Science cannot answer the *Who* and *why*; and *Genesis* is largely silent about the *how* and *when*!”

- The problem of so-called science, is really one of religious belief. Oh, the scientists would never claim to be religious, “only the facts, ma’am”, but they are extremely religious. According to the Apostle Paul in Romans 1, the scientists see all the creation around them. Through the creation, they behold God’s Attributes of Eternity, Power, Wisdom, Holiness, yet they suppress this truth! They must deny it, lest they must conform their lives to the obedience of the truth that he has revealed. They must live for his glory and his glory alone! Paul says in Romans 1:18-25:

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man -- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- The “proof” of the Creator is in the creation! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the Good Creator who is Spirit and Invisible became *visible* through his handiwork, through his creation. Illustration: We can always spot a *Rembrandt* or a *Monet* painting. The glorious paintings reflect the Painter (with a capital “P”). In the same way, God makes himself known in what his hands have made! Calvin says it this way: “Moses’ intention in Genesis with the creation of the world, is to render God, as it were, visible to us in his works. These are the truths of God which the Fathers of the Israelites had delivered from Father to son, through a long succession of years- - passed to their children.” This is what Moses is commanded by God to write down and preserve for future generations, including us!
- We know God through his *general revelation* in his works, but we know him savingly through the *special revelation* of his Word!

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 *There is* no speech nor language *Where* their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world...

- In Ps. 19:1-4, notice how the Psalmist begins speaking of *general revelation* in creation making the Invisible God *visible*, then in verses 7-11, moves to the *special revelation* of the Word of God.

7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right,

rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

- When fallen man has been humbled to truly see his deplorable fallen condition; when his *myths* and false origins do not satisfy him because they are lies that he has created out of the imagination God has given to him, he cries out like Augustine in his *Confessions*:

“Can any praise be worthy of the Lord’s majesty? How magnificent your strength! How inscrutable his wisdom! Man is one of your creatures, Lord, and his instinct is to praise you. He bears about him the mark of death, the sign of his own sin, to remind him that you thwart the proud. But still, since he is a part of your creation, he wishes to praise you. The thought of you stirs him so deeply that he cannot be content unless he praises you, because you made us for yourself and hearts are restless, until they find their rest in you.”

## II. The God who sovereignly reveals himself to all men in the creation!

### A. The Creation is the Revelation of God’s Glory and Handiwork to All Men.

- After the world had been created, man was placed in the world as in a theater if you will. He was to behold above him and below him the wonderful works of God. This would cause him to reverently adore the Author of all things.
- All things were graciously ordained for the use of man, God’s creation. This was so that he, being under deeper obligation, would devote and dedicate himself entirely to obedience towards God. He was endued with understanding and reason, so that being distinguished from brute animals, he might meditate on a better life, and might even tend directly toward obedient fellowship with God so that he might glorify him and enjoy him forever. God’s image was engraved on his own person as man.
- But alas, man was disobedient in this beautiful theater of God’s works of grace! He disobeyed the will of he who was eternal, whose will was eternal. He took upon himself the sinful burden of having a purpose other than that Eternal Purpose of enjoying the Divine Blessedness by glorying in God. As we learned earlier from Romans 1, fallen man suppresses the truth of only God. He sees as a man with poor spectacles, beholding light now and then, but not seeing the creation and the Creator through it, in all their splendor. Fallen man in relationship to God’s creation is now like a man walking in the night in a lightning storm. He stumbles along in the dark most of the time, but now in the then the lightning flashes across the sky lighting his path. However, it is so brief that he is back stumbling before he blinks an eye.

### B. The God who “begins again” by his grace (God makes a *New Creation*).

- This is why it is so beautiful the way the Apostle Paul describes the “new work” of God that had been foreordained from the foundation of the earth! In 2 Cor. 5:17, the Apostle Paul teaches the believers:

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- For the Apostle Paul, the reconciling and redeeming work of our Lord Jesus made possible a new creation. Literally: “If anyone be in Christ - - new Creation!” This is why Paul teaches us to put off the old man, the old Adamic man, who lives according to the pattern of this world and not according to God's Eternal pattern, that is, his will. We must put off the old man and put on the new man in Christ. We are to act like we belong to a new creation, wherein reigns righteousness! Listen to the way Paul explains the “Creation theology” in Colossians and Ephesians.
- In Colossians 3:3-11, Paul connects the important link between the origin of all things and the moral responsibility owed to our Creator - -the purpose that was regained in Christ:

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

- In Ephesians 4, Paul describes the new creating work of God in this way manner:

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him

and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

## Conclusion

- The people we know, some in our families, those we work with who do not know Christ, their lives have absolutely no meaning because they are disobedient to God's eternal will. They are blind to his revelation in the creation, suppress the truth they do see, and without ultimate purpose. Some try to deny this and live inconsistently, but they are like little people in a small sand aquarium.
  - Illustration: Imagine if you will small people living in a sand aquarium. They are your creatures, but they turn their backs to you (even though they see your reflection through the glass). They gather themselves together to fight against you so that when you open the lid of the aquarium and seek to know them by comforting them with your hand – they spear you! They make war and build ideas and philosophies about who they are and why they live in a sand aquarium, but they are never able to come to the truth!
  - This is the plight of those who live in God's creation, yet do not acknowledge the truth! They live in God's world denying God's existence and ultimately their own. They live according to their own wills and not God's; they live for all purposes other than God's glory. Therefore, they live inconsistently and lack the full extent for which they were all created!
- Now, all Christians affirm the importance of science- -or they should at least because it is the study of all of God's creation. It is truth about God's creation that we have been able to discover and harness to make our lives ultimately for fulfilling and give us greater ability to enjoy God's good creation. However, in our time, science has become full of mythology and lies.
- The myth of modern science is that as so-called *Enlightened* people we know better than to think religiously about a Creator God (that is, they say). You see, the science community is the *new priesthood* who provide our culture with all of the paradigms and perspectives of our reality as human. They have gone under the microscope, observed things on the subatomic level; they have ascended far above the atmosphere into outer-space, and they have not been able to empirically verify the existence of God. So – the new priests of the new mythology of science says he just doesn't exist and you need to wipe the religious hope and grin off your face and face the grim reality of existence alone in this universe (unless, of course you are Carl Sagan or Stephen Spielberg, hoping for redemption from E.T.)!
- What our scientists friends fail to realize is that they have biases and presuppositions when interpreting and verifying the data. There is nothing wrong with the creation, that is the *raw data*, there is something wrong with the heart that sees the microscopic organism; who perceives the subatomic particles; who takes a look at the earth from outer-space... They have a "heart-problem" - -they refuse to admit the presuppositions

and biases that they are *just not looking for a God* and in their scientific endeavors have already discarded even the possibility!! They must have myths, even scientific myths, because they must account for their origins because they are made in God's image. Despite their blind vision and misinterpretation of the data, they are seeking answers because their hearts are restless within them!

- A Sovereign Creator, is also a Sovereign Judge. They know that they will be held accountable and so they truly "believe a lie" and like the Athenians at Mars Hill, they have set up science as the *Idol to an Unknown God* - suppressing the truth and all the time subjectively believing a lie!! What a shame! May God grant that they can have eyes to see; a mind to rightly understand; ears to truly hear; hands to really feel God's creation; and a heart that finds rest in the Sovereign Creator of all things – both the heaven and the earth!!

**Repeat: the advice of St. Augustine and St. Anselm is helpful here! May we tell our well-meaning, scientific and religious friends, that they should *Believe in order to understand; do not wait to understand, and then to believe.*** For just as some of us were at one time, they need a Sovereign work of God's Word and Spirit! This will be our sermon topic for next week, Lord willing!

**CRB**