

## **In the beginning God Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014**

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1**

Beloved in the Lord,

A good foundation is vital. No matter what you are building, it is of uttermost importance that you lay a good foundation. If the foundation is not good and strong, then no matter how beautiful your building may be; it will not stand. Near where we live, there is a fair amount of building going on. Houses and apartment building are being constructed. I have observed that a great deal of care is taken in digging the foundations, and laying them. The taller the building is to be, the deeper the foundation must be.

In reality, in most things that we do, the foundation is of vital importance and affects the eventual outcome. I often recall the great saying that you only get once chance at a first impression.

Our text today is the very first verse in The Holy Bible. It is the foundation or the beginning of all that is to follow.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Let us meditate for a bit, on the first four words: “In the beginning God.” Here we are given the foundation of life, the universe and all things. This is the foundation of all things – In the beginning God. God is the beginning, He is also the ending and everything in between. In fact He Himself has no beginning and no end. He is and always has been.

We read in Revelation 1:8

***“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”***

Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the almighty.

In John’s Gospel we read in the opening verses:

***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” (John 1:1-4)***

Here we see the second member of The Holy Trinity – Jesus Christ. He has also always been in the same way that The Father has always been and The Holy Spirit has always been.

When Jesus was born to Mary, that was not His beginning, that was simply His Incarnation. He took on human flesh and came into the world as a man. He existed before His

incarnation. It is important to understand that all things came into being or were created through Him. That includes you and me and all people.

The next statement is also extremely important: ***“In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.”***

In Him was life and in Him is life. Only when we are in Him do we really experience life. Apart from Jesus a person does not really live, he exists. Only when our life is surrendered fully to Him and we live in faith do we live life to its fullest and at its very best.

Last Sunday we reflected upon the truth that life is a battle and we saw that we can only overcome if we abide in Jesus.

I know that we have often heard Jesus teaching about the vine and the branches, but I believe that we can never ever overdo reading what Jesus said. Often we read or hear but do not really comprehend what is being said. Even though we know that we are not able to succeed, we still try to do things in our own strength.

Let us listen and read with an open heart:

***“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-5)***

We know from nature that if a branch is broken off the tree, then it can no longer bear fruit, because the sap no longer flows through it. The branch slowly withers, dries out and dies. If we are not connected to Jesus then the life flow of the Holy Spirit, does not flow through us and we wither and die spiritually.

In the beginning God...

We need God not only in the beginning, but we need Him throughout every part of our lives. Without Him, apart from Him we can do nothing of eternal significance or value. Nothing.

That is why God prompts us, commands us to put Him first in all things. We see this in the very first commandment:

***“You shall have no other gods before Me.” – Exodus 3:20***

God must be in the absolute first place of our lives. Not second or third but first and foremost. Nothing, absolutely nothing must be of greater priority. No relationship is more important than our relationship with Him. When we submit all to Him, including all of our

relationships, then we are blessed. Where God is number one, there we are blessed. When we put God first The Holy Spirit flows through us.

Jesus taught: ***“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)***

There is a conditional promise here. If we seek God’s Kingdom and put Him first; then He provides all things for us. Last Sunday I introduced you to the thought WWJD – What would Jesus do? I said that we should do all things with that mindset. This does not come automatically. We need to train ourselves to think this way. We need to alter the way that we think and tune into God’s frequency. We need to think like God.

In order to know what God thinks, we need to read and study His Word. We need to be filled with His Word, to saturate our lives with His Word. The more the better.

If we only fill our lives with worldly things and worldly thoughts then we will be carnal in our thoughts and deeds. On the other hand if we fill our minds and hearts with God’s Word, we will be spiritual and reflect God.

In the beginning God.

In Psalm 139 there is one verse that is very dear to me and that is verse 18b: ***“When I awake, I am still with You.”***

When you awake, what are the first thoughts that run across your mind? How long is it before your mind turns to God? What foundation do you lay in the morning? Do you start off in His Word, in prayer, in thanksgiving to Him or do you listen to the radio or TV? Does your day begin with thanksgiving to God for a new day; for the fact that you are alive; for your daily bread; for His loving provision in all things including your salvation. Do you thank Him for Jesus who bore your sin on the cross that you may have life eternal? Do you thank Him that you live in freedom?

If you do then you have laid a great foundation for the rest of the day. Martin Luther used to say that he had so much to do every day that he had to spend the first hours in prayer and God’s Word. We have a tendency to do the opposite: We say I have so much to do today I do not have time for God. What a mistake to make. Believe me I know from experience.

If I put God first, then everything else sorts itself out. If not, the day is a mess. Pastor Charles Stanley says that prayer is a great time saver. When we pray and seek God’s will, we save time, because we do it the right way the first time. We save ourselves a lot of heartache and problems in the long run.

If we have God in the beginning, then all that follows is blessed.

The early Christian Church was powerful because as Paul so eloquently stated:

***“for in Him we live and move and exist,..” (Acts 17:28)***

May we always put God first in all things and we will be blessed.

In the beginning God – at the end God – in all things God!

Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.