

HC 26 – The Work and Wonder of God the Father

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Do you know someone with a great father – caring – compassionate – charming? Every wished you had a father like that? How about when it was Father's Day and you heard all the sweet things people said about their father, how did you feel? What if you have no father at all? Or what is you had a father but he didn't care?

Well, you do have a wonderful Father, the most wonderful in the world. And you will hear about him today.

Our headings are:

Your Father's Work

Your Faithful Duty

Our goals are: That upon the reminder of the work and wonder of God that you will respond in moving closer to him, obeying him with fortitude, and boasting about him to the world.

26 Q. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE WHEN YOU SAY: "I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH"?

A. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing **created heaven and earth and everything** in them, who **still upholds and rules them** by his eternal **counsel and providence**, is **my God and Father because of Christ** his Son. I **trust him so much** that I **do not doubt** he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will **turn to my good whatever adversity he sends** me in this sad world. **He is able to do this** because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a **faithful Father**.

问26：当你说：“我言神，全能之父，创造天地的主”，你相信什么？答：我相信我们耶稣基督永恒之父，从无有中创造了天地，和其中的一切，又用他永恒的计划供应托住并管理天地。他因着他儿子基督的缘故，作我的神和父神；我毫无疑问地相信他以供应我身体和灵魂一切的需要。此外，在流泪的幽谷，无论他给予我什么不幸，都会变为对我有益的；因为他无所不能的神，所以他能够如此行，并且既是一位信实的天父，他也愿意如此行。

Your Father's Work

1. Your heavenly Father determined to create and did create heaven and earth and everything in them.

Exodus 20: 11 For in **six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth**, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day...

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.

God was intimately involved in creation and you see that in the details of how he personally created Adam and you!

Isaiah 44: 24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And **He who formed you from the womb**: "I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who **stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth** by Myself;

So reject the incredible claims—or un-credible claims—of monkeys being your mother and that your cousin crawled out from primordial slime. **Yahweh created you ex nihilo**. Because of God's creative power and style, everyone who deeply studies God's creation, especially the human body and soul, lives in awe! Think of how you have an invisible moral compass! **Think how you feel guilt when you sin**. This is why evolutionists and **atheists assume the existence of evil and good** – non-tangible things. (Zacharias: *When you assume there's such a thing as good, you assume there's such a thing as a moral law on the basis of which to differentiate between good and evil.*) If there were a moral law, there must be a moral law giver—God. Happiness is not caused by a chemical formula.

2. Your Father is not only Creator of all things but he is keeper of everything he has created by his eternal counsel and providence. Yahweh even cares for the small things...

Matthew 10: 29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

He especially cares for his children's needs.

Matthew 6: 30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into

the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

This truth will set you free from bondage 捆绑 and fear. You don't have to worry when you are sick or dying. You know that if you follow your Creator, you are in good hands. The Allstate insurance company may have that as their slogan, but only your Father can truly keep you safe – body and soul.

This is why you want to worship God. He made you and keeps you in his hands.

So even though I was jealous when I watched people boast about their father last month on Father's Day, (my father died 35 years ago) I have another Father...one who cares for me in all things.

Look at how the Psalmist describes some of God's preserving work.

Psalm 104:10 He sends the springs into the valleys, They flow among the hills. 11 They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. 12 By them the birds of the heavens have their home; They sing among the branches. 13 He waters the hills from His upper chambers 楼阁; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. 14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, 15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart.

This is my Father's world and he takes care of it. He is not subjected to time or age. He knows when a mosquito dies...and he ordains it. He knows when a man cries. This is why I worship him!

3. Even after your fall into sin in Adam, your heavenly Father restored you to himself through the sacrifice of his Son to meet his justice. So you are now God's son through his Son's death on the cross.

John 1: 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right **to become children of God**, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Your salvation was your Father's plan all along...even from before the world was created; love goes back a long way. And he causes no trouble to his children, like some father's might.

Ephesians 1: 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance 基業, **being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.** 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the **gospel of your salvation...**

4. Your Father confirms with you that you are children of God through Christ. You then have no reason to doubt his love. How do you know that? He says so in your heart!

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Your Faithful Duty

1. You must **believe and trust in your heavenly Father because he is almighty God.** You must not join yourself to other gods, which are no gods at all. They can't save...but they will guarantee a place for you in hell! Look at how easy it is to trust in men instead of trusting in God. God did a miracle through Paul and Barnabas...and the people were ready to make them God.

Acts 14: 11 Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 And **Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.** 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. 有城外丟斯廟的祭司, 牽著牛, 拿著花圈, 來到門前, 要司眾人向使徒獻祭。 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out 15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should **turn from the se useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth,** the sea, and all things that are in them,

You must trust and believe that he is a faithful and able to do what he has promised. Remember:

Genesis 18: 13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' 14 **"Is anything too hard for the LORD?"** At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

Also, Yahweh humbled the Egyptians and destroyed their faith in their idolatrous gods and set Israel free to go and serve him. No one was able to stop him – though Pharaoh tried to stop him.

Romans 8: 28 And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Your Father is not subject to time...and he works beyond time for your good. So here is the warning: Don't treat your husband as your salvation...or your children...or your job...or your education!

2. You must trust and believe your heavenly Father and not doubt that he will willingly provide everything you need for your body and soul. And he warns you about worrying for things!

Matthew 6: 25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

3. Remember that God loves his children...and therefore he will give what is good for you.

Matthew 7: 9 "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things..."

4. You must trust and believe that your Father will always do what is best for you in your adversity 逆境

Psalms 55: 22 **Cast your burden on the LORD**, And He **shall sustain you**; He shall **never permit the righteous to be moved**.

5. Don't be ungrateful 不知感恩. How ungrateful a child would be if he disregarded what God did for him!

How ungrateful **the French were to God** when they screamed at the time of the Enlightenment

启蒙运动: **"No God and no master."** They ignored God's work and flaunted 标榜 their own selves.

And what do **modern evolutionists** do? They are grope around in darkness for meaning to life...and they go about selfishly trying to get for themselves, rather than putting the needs of others first. Their goal is **"survival of the fittest."** But it is not so for the child of God. He knows in his heart that he is God's child...and he worships the Lord without any compulsion.

Conclusion:

When you consider the greatness of God's work of creation and recreation 再创造, and how admirable they are, you will faithfully worship and serve God - Jehovah God.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. To recognize the fullness of your Father's work you need faith – which is a gift of God. Without faith in Jesus Christ your worship is nothing but hollow 空洞 sounds that do not pierce the clouds and go to heaven.

2. Faith comes by reading, studying, and believing the Word of God. So you need to be good students of the Word.

3. And tell this message to the world. Let them hear of the work and wonder of your Father, Jehovah God.

3. And may I suggest you take some time from your busy schedules and reflect on God's creation. Yes, think about your wretched sinfulness and how you were saved by grace through Jesus Christ so you can worship God (you can't worship without coming through Christ's sacrifice), but also think about God's rolling mountains and flowing streams as well. God is good and God is great. Praise him for his excellent goodness and greatness. **Admiration of his creation adds to the glory of your worship.**

As a non-Christian, you have not been able to see the greatness of God's work because you lack faith. But maybe God is giving faith to you right now. If you sense God speaking to your heart now, why not surrender to him? He will give you everything that is good for your body and soul forever.