



Sermon
Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

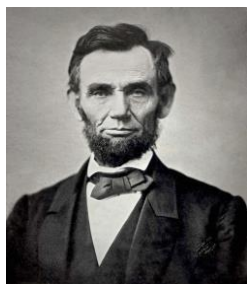
“In the Beginning”

The Holy Trinity
St. Michael's Lutheran Church (Graduation Sunday)
6-11-17

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God's the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

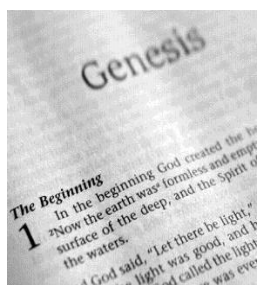
Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning God's created the heavens and the earth”* This is the word of God's. (Cross Reference – John 1:1-2, Acts 17:24, Hebrews 1:10; 11:3, Revelation 4:11, Nehemiah 9:6, Job 9:8; 38:4, Psalm 89:11; 102:25, 115:15; 124:8; 136:5; 148:5, Isaiah 40:21; 42:5; 45:18, Jeremiah 10:12; 51:15)

Illustration “Atheist” (Show quote from Abraham Lincoln)



The 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln once said: “I never behold (the heavens filled with stars that I do not feel I am looking in the face of God's. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up, into the heavens and say there is no God's.” The first book of the Bible is called Genesis. Moses is the author of the book. The word “Genesis mean *beginning*. In the beginning it tells us how the world was created. In the beginning how the first man was created. In the beginning, it show how man fallen into sin. In the beginning it shows how animal sacrifice was use for the sin of the sinner.

I. In the beginning show how God's relationship with human. (Show Genesis)



If you want to know how the heaven and the earth, created animal and human, then you will have to go and read the book of Genesis. The very first word of the Bible, it begin with, *“In the beginning God's created....”* (Genesis 1:1) then others thing come after that sentences. So, in the beginning, it started with God's. If you carefully look at the way it is written, it didn't started by saying, “In the beginning, the earth was without form, ... In the beginning before the sun and solar system existed, ... In the beginning in a land far, far away, ... It simply says “In the beginning... GOD'S” (Show Hebrews 1:10-12)



Many evolution or human wisdom always think that the world simply just appear out of nowhere. There is no God's or others spiritual form that has the power to created the world. But the author of Hebrews write, *“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”* (Hebrews 1:10-12)
(Show God's who is Lord of All)



Everything God's say is not about this world, but it pointed to God's. If this is the case then why is His word are so important that we human need to pay attention

and listen to what he has to say? The reason we need to listen to Him is that He is the God's of everything. Everything belong to him. Your house, your car, your food, your money, and everything that you see in this world belong to God's. God's allow you to manage for a little while - meaning you are to take care for Him only. **(Show scientist & Dirt)**



There was a story about some scientist gather together and they came up with a solution that they are longer wanted anything to do with God's help. One of the scientist said, "God's, we've decided that we no longer need you. We can do all kinds of things through science. We can even clone people and make body parts, so we just don't need you

anymore." God's listen and answer them by saying, "Let's have a man making contest just like in the days of Adam." The scientist agreed and bent down to grab himself a handful of dirt. And God's smiled and said, "No, no, no – you get your own dirt." How do you think the scientist feel now?

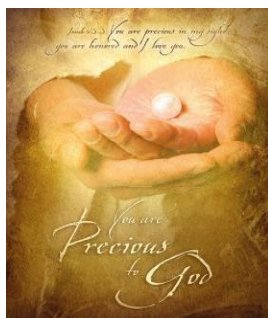
II. I have a \$20.00 bill and for a few second, I like you to think how important is this \$20.00 bill? If I were to give you this \$20.00 bill, would you want it? **(Show \$20.00 Bill)**



How many of you would raise your hand stating that you like to have it if it is free? *(Let see how many people raise their hand)* Now let me do this ***(Tear the paper \$20.00 bill to several pieces)*** and ask, How many of you would raise your hand

stating that you like to have it if it is free? *(Let see how many people raise their hand)* Was the paper on the bill important or was the ink on the bill important? The \$20.00 bill is important and you can use it as an official money to make purchase because it has the United States Department of Treasury stamp and emblem and all the critical information on it in order to make it a valid to be a \$20.00 value.

(Show precious to God)



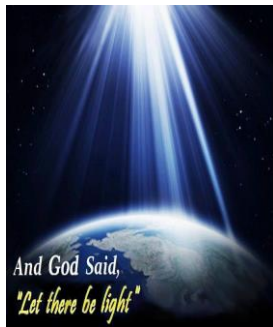
Are you important to God's? In the beginning, God's created the heavens, the earth, animals and everything in it before creating "man in the image of God's." (Genesis 1:27) Man is precious to God's. Remember that when Scripture use the word "man" it mean "all human – men and women". God's doesn't want anyone to fall into sin. God's created man so that man can take care of this world for Him. If God's didn't prepare this world for man then He would have not created the human race. This is important and this is why the first word in Genesis it said, "In the Beginning God's created the heavens and the earth..."

(Show dead fish in a bowl)



A young man want to raise some gold fish. He set out to purchase a bowl, rock, a few items and some gold fish. He brought it home and put some water in the bowl. He then put the gold fish in the bowl. In a few days later he found that the gold fish had die. This young man could not understand to why the fish die quickly and what does the fish need in order for the fish to survive? The problem is that you can't just do what this young man did and expected the fish to live. You need certain thing in order for the gold fish to survive. To keep a goldfish healthy, remember to provide them with plenty of clean, cool water. Your

goldfish's temperature should never rise above 74° Fahrenheit (about 23.5° Celsius), and ideally should remain between 65° and 68° F (18° and 20° C) so you will need a thermometer. (Goldfish Care Basic-www.firsttankguide.net/goldfish.php (Show let there be light))



This is in a similar with God's how He prepare everything for the human race to live on this earth so that we can survived. He prepared the air so that we can breath, He prepared the crop so that we can have food to eat, He prepared day and night so that we can work during the day and rest during the night so that we can be refresh and regain our strength so that we can go back to work the next day. In Genesis, *"And God's said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God's saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God's called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day."* (Genesis 1:3-5)

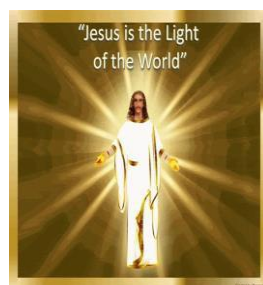
- III. How good and gracious is our God's to us? He love us and doesn't want anyone to fall into sin or live in darkness. But people doesn't appreciated His goodness and instead turn to sin. In order to save the sin of the world God's sin His only Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the world so that He can save the world. Before Jesus begin His ministry, Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptize. After Jesus was baptize Scripture said, *"Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."* (Mark 1:10-11) (Show blindness)



A woman name Rose Crawford was blind for 50 years. She finally went to see the doctor to see if the doctor can help her see. After her surgery and when the doctor started to take the bandage off her eyes and she finally see. A joyous burst of tears came flowing down her face and she is so happy that she now can see. But the doctor told Rose that why didn't she have her eye surgery earlier? She didn't have to live the life of blindness for more than 20 years. When she turned 30 year old there was already medical technology that had the method to cure the type of blindness that Rose had. According to Rose, when she was young, she did

approach the doctor but during that time there was no medical procedure that could cure her. So she assume that she has to live her life as blindness. So for another 20 years goes by before she seek out the surgery procedure again in order for her to see. But now she can see.

(Show Jesus is the Light of the world)



Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, He doesn't want you and I to live in darkness but live in the light. This is why Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12) But man doesn't want to live in the light instead want to live in darkness. When you live in darkness, it will lead you to sin. But God's so love the world that God's send His Son to be the light of the world so that man will not have to walk in darkness. This is why the Apostle John wrote in beginning in his Gospel said, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was*

God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:1-4) (Show Alpha and Omega)



Because in the beginning, God's created man but due to sin man has fallen. But because of God's grace and mercy God has to come back to save mankind. The Apostle John write, Jesus said, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End"* (Revelation 22:13) (Show 2017 Graduate)



Graduate, as we reflect on since the beginning of time, God's created everything so that we may have peace, joy, love, and hope. Some of you will go to high school, others will go to college to pursue higher education such as Associate, Bachelor, Master, or Doctor Degree while others will find employment and begin to build your life. In the beginning, God's gave the knowledge and wisdom to man so that we may do all things according to His will. So seek the wisdom that

our gracious God have given you. The book of Proverbs said, *"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."* (Proverbs 16:3) Graduate, remember that everything that you do, you will do it for the honor and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the beginning, Jesus is God and He is our strength and our salvation. Amen. Now may the peace of God's which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Print this copy of \$20.00 bill and use as a illustration on page 2 section II.

