

KANSAS CLASSIFIEDS AD NETWORK

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"In The Beginning, God"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

When your life seems empty, chaotic and darkness surrounds you, to whom can you turn? Is there anyone who can help?

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void (empty), and darkness was over the surface of the deep..."

What happened next? "God said, 'Let there be...'"

By the sheer power of His Word, the triune God brought order and beauty out of chaos, emptiness and darkness. He spoke the universe and all that is into being, from the tiniest atoms and living things unseen by the human eye to the great creatures of the sea to the awesome galaxies deep in space.

When we human beings "create" something, we must gather the materials we need. We may get some paints, a palette and easel; or we may buy the necessary ingredients for an elaborate dessert; or we may stock up on the lumber, nails and tools needed for a building project.

But when God created "in the beginning," He did so "ex nihilo," a twenty-five cent term meaning "out of nothing." God didn't have a supercosmic mudpie mix with which to begin. There was no "primordial soup" can to open. Romans 4:17 says it this way "...God who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist." God spoke and, over six

days, the entire creation was formed, literally, "out of nothing."


God is in a different kind of creating business, too. God's Word says that the one who believes, accepting Jesus Christ into his or her life is a "...new creature (created being), the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God..."

God is still creating

things "ex nihilo." You can bring nothing to the Lord Jesus to receive eternal life. No church membership records, or baptism records, or offering receipts will impress the Creator God. Such things will not earn you one brownie point toward salvation and eternal life with God.

Salvation comes ONLY because of who Jesus is and what He has already done. He gave His life to pay the penalty for your sins. Jesus paid a debt He did not owe, because you owe a debt you cannot possibly pay. Until you have asked God for forgiveness in Jesus' Name through true repentance and are born again, your debt of sin and selfishness keeps you separated from God. Eternal life is a free gift, but you must accept the gift on the Giver's standards. God loves you with an everlasting love. Bring to Him all the "nothing" you have and He will give you everything you need! He will cleanse you from sin and create in you a pure heart.

A New Identity



Every day we leave impressions on those around us. How we present ourselves reflects on our unique individuality, our personality and convictions. Our selfishness or unselfishness in small ways, our ability to remain calm when a storm surrounds us, whether we mostly smile or mostly frown...these traits tell others something about us, something about who we truly are. In 1 John 5:7 we hear, "And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth." Celebrate your identity at your house of worship each week; let God's truth leave an impression on you.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
John 10.22-42	Matthew 18.1-14	Matthew 19.13-30	Matthew 22.15-40	Leviticus 19.1-18	Deut. 6.1-25	1 John 1.1-2.6

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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4	5	7	6	9	8	3	2	1
2	3	9	7	4	1	6	8	5
8	2	5	3	7	4	9	1	6
3	9	4	5	1	6	2	7	8
7	1	6	8	2	9	5	3	4
9	7	3	4	8	5	1	6	2
5	8	1	9	6	2	7	4	3
6	4	2	1	3	7	8	5	9

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V	E	G	A	S	A	Y	N	A	S	S	E	T		
A	B	A	C	K	B	O	O	N	E	W	T	O		
S	A	L	T	Y	D	O	G	S	G	R	E	A	T	
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C	A	B	I	N	S	C	L	I	M	A	T	E	S	
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R	I	T	E	T	A	S	T	E	C	O	I	N		
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