

# WHY I BELIEVE: GOD IS FATHER AND CREATOR

I Cor 8:6

## I. INTRODUCTION

NEW SERIES FOCUSING ON BASICS OF WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY

## II. TEXT—I Corinthians 8:4-6

*4 Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.*

## III. THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE GOD

### A. “THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN IDOL IN THE WORLD”—v4

1. Original text = “Idols are nothing in this world”
2. They do nothing—they have no power

*Psalm 115:4-8—Their idols are silver and gold, the work of man’s hands. They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but they cannot feel; they have feet, but they cannot walk; they cannot make a sound with their throat. Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them.*

3. They have no inherent religious value
  - They are just objects
  - They represent nothing—there are no real gods behind them
4. True God does not dwell in temples—like man-made idols

*Acts 17:24-5—The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things.*

### B. THE GODS OF THIS WORLD MEAN NOTHING—v5

1. They are just “so-called” gods—fake gods
2. They do exist—there are many of them
  - a. Everyone has a god—even if they reject God’s existence
  - b. God—is whatever is ultimate to you—whatever you serve

3. Examples of “so-called” gods
  - **Money—wealth—deceitfulness of riches**
  - **Work—success—ambition**
  - **Pleasure—entertainment—sports**
  - **Things—desires for other things**
  - **Popularity—recognition**
4. None of them can do anything permanently meaningful
  - Cannot give life
  - Cannot restore health
  - Cannot bring happiness or contentment
  - Cannot give love or relationship

### C. THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE GOD—v6

1. There is no other God but one (v4)—there is but one God (v6)
  - Restatement of **Shema**—“*Hear O Israel*”—Dt 6:4
2. One evidence of One True God—all other gods are impotent—empty
3. God’s powerful nature—**Lord God Almighty**
  - a. Revealed to Abram—at age 90

**Gen 17:1**—*Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless.”*

- b. Revealed to John—in Revelation

**Rev 4:8-11**—*And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.” And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory ad honor and power; for You created al things, and because of your will they existed, and were created.*

- c. Almighty = **παντοκρατωρ**
      - o ALL power, dominion, strength, might
      - o
      - o He who holds sway over ALL things—ruler of ALL
4. How He has revealed Himself to us—v6
  - a. **God—the Father**
  - b. **God the Creator**—*from whom are all things*

## IV. GOD IS CREATOR

## A. BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

1. He made all things
  - **Gen 1:1**—*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*
  - Created from nothing—*bara*
  - He is the First and Only Cause
2. Eternally existent
  - **Rev 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.”*
  - Only God is supernatural—before all nature

## B. HUMAN LOGIC

1. In the **beginning**—something had to exist—had to be **first**
2. The dilemma—how can we think of no beginning?
3. But something *had* to exist from eternity—to *start* everything.
4. Which makes more sense? Choose!—**inanimate matter** or **thinking person**

**Rev 1:17-18**—*Fear not; I AM the first and the last; I AM he that lives, and was dead; and behold I AM alive forevermore.*

## C. SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

1. CHOICE—CREATION IS EITHER RANDOM ‘**CHANCE**’—OR PLANNED ‘**CHOICE**’
2. NOTE—**Borel’s law = 1 in 10<sup>50</sup> odds = impossible**
3. **PROTEIN**—IMPOSSIBILITY OF ‘**CHANCE**’
  - a. The Importance and nature of **protein**
    1. Protein is a key building block of life
    2. Made from combinations of 20 types of amino acids
    3. Molecule formed by a strand of amino acids joined in specific order with peptide bonds
  - b. The simplest protein is **insulin**
    1. **51 amino acids**—in **two chains**—**21 and 30** in each chain
    2. Each chain must have the right order of acids
    3. Both chains must align precisely with each other
  - c. Odds against insulin protein developing by chance

1. Not just putting *each* chain in the right order
  2. But the two chains must be precisely *aligned*
  3. **Odds = 1 in 10<sup>54</sup>**
- d. Probability of **average protein** occurring by chance—[from Dr. James F. Coppedge]
1. Simplest autonomous organism—is a **bacteria**
    - Mycoplasma hominis H35
    - The average protein in it has 400 amino acid links (7000 atoms)
  2. Odds of it being produced by chance = **1 in 10<sup>287</sup>**
  3. **Remember: 1 in 10<sup>50</sup> = impossibility!**
- e. The probability of **life** occurring by chance
1. Smallest animal life must have at least 239 types of proteins
  2. Odds = **1 in 10<sup>119879</sup>**
  3. How long would this take—by chance?
    - 1 x 10<sup>119841</sup> years
    - Or 10<sup>119831</sup> times the age of the earth
  4. **Remember: 1 in 10<sup>50</sup> = impossibility!** n
- f. **Conclusion:** impossible for simplest animal life to have begun by chance

#### D. HUMAN CONSCIENCE

1. Inherent awareness of right and wrong—morality and ethics

**Rom 2:14-16**—*For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.*

#### E. NATURAL REVELATION

**Rom 1:19-20**—*because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

#### F. HUMAN INTUITION

**God-shaped vacuum**—attributed to 5<sup>th</sup> century **Ambrose** and 17<sup>th</sup> century **Pascal**)

**Blaise Pascal**—What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself. [*Pensees* #425]

## V. GOD IS FATHER

### A. SCANT EVIDENCE IN OLD TESTAMENT

1. **Rare** references to God as Father in Torah—like **Dt 32:6**

**Dt 32:6**—*Do you thus repay the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.*

2. **Occasional** references—in Psalms of David—**Psalms 68 & 103**

3. **Most pointed** affirmations—in Prophets

o **Is 63:16**—*For Thou art our Father, though Abraham does not know us, And Israel does not recognize us. Thou, O LORD, art our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Thy name.*

o **Is 64:8**—*But now, O LORD, Thou art our Father, We are the clay, and Thou our potter; And all of us are the work of Thy hand.*

o **Jer 3:4, 19**—*Have you not just now called to Me, 'My Father, Thou art the friend of my youth? . . . Then I said, 'How I would set you among My sons, And give you a pleasant land, The most beautiful inheritance of the nations!' And I said, 'You shall call Me, My Father, And not turn away from following Me.*

### B. DRAMATIC SHIFT IN NEW TESTAMENT—PRIMARY IDENTITY OF GOD!

1. JESUS' TESTIMONY MAKES THIS CLEAR

- a. Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7)—Father mentioned 17 times

- b. His first recorded words (Lk 2:49)

**Lk 2:49**—*Why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?*

- c. His last words before death

**Lk 23:46**—*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.*

- d. His great priestly prayer of intercession for His disciples

Jn 17—Father is mentioned seven times

- e. Gospel of John—Father mentioned 124 times

2. NEW TESTAMENT IMAGERY—OF FATHER

- a. **Heavenly** Father—who meets all our needs—Sermon on Mount—**Mt 6**

- o Who gives us daily bread
- o Who forgives us
- o Who guides and protects us
- o Who delivers us from evil
- o Who feeds the birds and likewise takes care of us
- o Who provides us food and drink
- o Who clothes us

- b. **Holy** Father—"hallowed by Thy name"—**Mt 6:9**
- c. **Royal** Father—"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done"—**Mt 6:10**
- d. Father of **Lights**—who is constant—no shadow of turning—**James 1:17**
- e. Father of **Mercies**—and God of all comfort—**II Cor 1:3**
- f. Father of **Glor**y—gives wisdom and knowledge of Christ—**Eph 1:17**
- g. Father who **Cares**—even more than earthly fathers

**Mt 7:11**—*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

- h. Father of the **Only Begotten Son**—who revealed His glory—full of Grace and Truth—**Jn 1**

### C. HE IS OUR FATHER!

1. WHOEVER RECEIVES CHRIST—IS BORN OF GOD—**Jn 1:13**
2. ADOPTED CHILDREN OF GOD

- **Eph 1:5**—*Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will*
- **Gal 4:4-6**—*But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

### D. IMPORTANCE AND UNIQUENESS OF GOD AS FATHER

1. 'GODS' OF OTHER RELIGIONS EXPECT TWO THINGS
  - Devotion and worship—focused on god's need for gratification
  - Obedience to moral codes—focused on human need for order
2. OTHER RELIGIONS ARE SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED IDEAS—TO DO TWO THINGS
  - To meet human emotional needs
  - To maintain discipline in society
3. OTHER RELIGIONS PROMISE SALVATION—ONE OF THREE WAYS

- Legalistic works—with no certain assurance of salvation
- Reincarnation—working toward Nirvana—merging with God
- Annihilation—extinction of self and personal non-existence

#### 4. WHAT MAKES THE FATHER OF JESUS CHRIST UNIQUE?

- a. He still expects worship and devotion
  - o But not for self-gratification—He does not need it!
  - o Rather for us to benefit from relationship with Him
- b. He still expects obedience
  - o But not just for social order and the common good
  - o Rather for our own individual good—so that we will prosper
  - o And to make us righteous—for our own good
    - So we can commune fully with Him
    - So we can be useful in service to Him
  - o He disciplines—for our own good—like an earthly father
- c. But He is different—as Father
  1. He not only **loves**—**He is love**
    - This goes beyond compassion or pity
    - It is the *basis* for a *relationship* with Him
  2. He loves **unconditionally**
    - He loves **all** His children (all His creation)
    - He loves us even when we do not love Him
    - He loves us **regardless** of what we do
  3. He loves **sacrificially**
    - **Jn 3:16**—*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*
    - He has sacrificed everything to redeem us from sin and death
  4. He **forgives**—and **restores** our relationship with Him
    - For true repentance—this is unconditional and unlimited

#### E. EVIDENCE GOD IS OUR FATHER

1. ULTIMATELY CANNOT BE **PROVEN** BY SCIENCE OR REASON

2. REAL PROOF—IS SPIRITUAL

a. His Spirit's presence within us

- **Gal 4:6**—*Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, Abba, Father!*

b. Witness of His Spirit to our spirits

- **Rom 8:16-17**—*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

## VI. INVITATION

### THERE IS A FOUNTAIN

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.  
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;  
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.  
Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;  
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power  
Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.  
Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more;  
Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

For since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.  
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;  
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.



## **ALBERT SOBIESKI VENTING**

In September 1922, our church called as its third pastor, Dr. **ALBERT SOBIESKI VENTING**. Venting was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1883—son of Count Adolf Sobieski of Crakaw, Poland, and Willie Mae (Ellyson) of Richmond, Virginia. His father was a member of the Polish government, and his mother was an artist. After his mother died in childbirth and the count could not care for him, Albert was put in foster-care with friends of the family. When he was five, his father died. Nine years later, when his foster mother died, he learned she was not his real mother.

That same year, Albert was converted under the preaching of Dr. Richard Venting, the English Baptist pastor of First Baptist Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa. When Albert felt called to preach, his anti-religious foster father resisted, so, Dr. Venting adopted Albert. After graduating from Council Bluffs High School, Albert studied at William Jewel College. But Dr. Venting wanted his adopted son to get an English education and sent him to Harley College in London and finally to Mansfield College, Oxford. Albert Venting came to Texas in 1908 as pastor of East Henderson Baptist Church in Cleburne. In 1911, Dr. Venting married Ollie Lou Brown of Cleburne, Texas, in 1911. They had one son, Albert Venting, Jr., who died at the age of 13. In 1916, Albert entered Southwestern Seminary, where he earned the Th.M. degree, Th.D., and a B.Music degrees.

Venting was a violinist who began playing publically at age five. However, after his conversion, his training took him in the direction of religion and philosophy. He taught religion and philosophy at Southwestern from 1921 to 1937. However, his love for music was evident at Southwestern, as one of his most popular courses was "Religion and the Fine Arts." He also influenced Dr. I. E. Reynolds, dean of the music school at Southwestern. Venting introduced many songs from English hymnody to Reynolds. He was also instrumental in changing the name of the music school at Southwestern from School of Gospel Music to School of Sacred Music.

While teaching at Southwestern, Venting also was pastor of several churches. While he was pastor of Seminary Hill Baptist Church (1922-1924), the congregation started a building fund (1923). The pastor appointed an advisory board to “see about and make plans for building a church house for the Seminary Hill Baptist Church.” In 1924, the seminary president, Dr. Scarborough, gave the church three more lots facing Beddell, making the church’s property a full half block. That same year, the church’s building committee hired an architect, and a three-year campaign was begun to raise at least half of the needed \$70,000.

Venting had a shepherd’s heart, with unusual insight into the human condition. His last ministry before his death was teaching a businessman’s Bible class of more than 100 members, many of them prominent personalities in the life of Fort Worth. Upon his death, this men’s class raised a fund in his memory to aid theological students at Southwestern Seminary.

After Venting retired in 1952, Baylor University asked him to form a Department of Sacred Music within the School of Music. He remained on its faculty until his death at his home in Fort Worth on June 13, 1965.