



The Calkins Baptist Beacon

A ministry of the Calkins Baptist Church, 527 Calkins Road, Milanville, PA

Visit us on the web at: www.cubc.us or calkinsbaptistchurch.com

Volume 10 Issue 1

Who is God? God is Great!

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

Special note: This article is part of an upcoming sermon series that Pastor Lane Jones plans on preaching on Sunday mornings at Calkins beginning on April 3rd.

You may be wondering why I say that God is great, and how that simple truth will make any difference in your life. Simply put, you should understand that God is great because He created you and all the rest of the physical universe! Let’s begin by reading this simple opening statement of the Bible: **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** From this basic truth, I would ask you to consider three logical lines of thought that stem from **Genesis 1:1**.

I. There are Assumptions behind this Statement! God already knows that you believe in His existence. It is important for you to understand that to say you believe in God is merely to be honest. Belief in God does not make you moral, for God already realizes that you know He is there. Why does He say this?

A. *God has placed the fact of His existence within your heart!* Paul stated this truth boldly.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, Romans 1:18-20

B. *God has also revealed Himself to you through His creation!* This is stated in **vs.20** above, and it is taught elsewhere in the Scriptures.

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Psalm 19:1-3

In fact, the evidence for God’s existence is so overwhelming and

the alternative of denying His existence so foolish, that – to the best of my knowledge – I know of only two places in the Scripture where God addresses the issue of atheism. Interestingly, both passages say the exact same thing. They are found in **Psalm 14:1** and **Psalm 53:1**: **“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”**

Thus, it is clear that God rightly assumes that you know that He is there, and thus He starts by informing you that He created all that you see. That leads to a second line of thinking.

II. There are Implications behind Genesis 1:1! – What can you infer after you understand that God created all?

A. *There is only one God!* There are not multiple creators who worked together here: just one God! If you came out of a pagan culture, like the original recipients of Genesis (i.e. the Israelites of Moses’ day), this would be an important piece of information.

Of course, you could still wonder if there was one Creator God and other lesser gods. That false idea could be completely put to rest by reading **Deuteronomy 4:35**:

(Continued on page 2)

5th Annual Spring Concert: “Our Hope is in the Lord”

This year’s Spring Concert is called *Our Hope is in the Lord* and it will be held at Calkins Baptist Church on Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th at 7:00 PM each night.. In the light of the chaos and confusion in the world today, people are looking for hope somewhere. That hope is only found in one person and His name is Jesus Christ who is our great God!

The adult, teen, and children’s choirs will be singing various choral arrangements reiterating this theme. There will also be various instrumental numbers interspersed throughout. A narration will also be included of how the world, our nation, people throughout church

history, and we as individuals must place our hope in Christ alone.

We hope that this event will first of all honor and glorify the Lord while also edifying those who hear this important message of hope. It is our desire for each one of you to come out to this special program and to hear how there is hope for you regardless of your situation. This event is free of charge and is opened to the public. A nursery is provided for young children. For more information, please contact either Pastor Jones (570-729-7017) or Pastor Hanson (570-729-4090).



Men’s Prayer Conference on National Revival!

On March 25th-26th, the folks at Calkins Baptist church hosted their 2nd Annual Men’s Prayer conference. The theme for this year’s conference was: *Should we Continue to Pray for National Revival?* The key verse for the conference was **Ps. 85:6**, **“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?”** In a time when a national revival is crucial, the men heard five messages on prayer concerning revival and spent five lengthy prayer sessions along these same lines.



The topics were *The Prerequisite for National Revival (Ps. 139:23,24)*, *The Keys to National Revival (II Chron. 7:14)*, *The Hope for National Revival (Jer. 18:1-17)*, *A Plea for National Revival (Dan. 9:1-19)*, and *The Danger of Focusing Merely on National Revival (I Kings 17-18)*.

The conference began on Friday, March 25th, from 7:00-10:00P.M and resumed on Saturday, March 26th, from 7:30A.M-2:00P.M. On Saturday, there was some time for fellowship around breakfast and lunch was provided free of charge by the ladies of Calkins Baptist.

Any who would like to hear some or all of the messages from the conference should check the church website: www.cubc.us.

We would ask all of our readers to pray that the Lord would prepare all of our hearts to turn back to our God and His Word!

We pray that this event will result in a spiritual awakening for many.

Who is God? God is Great! (continued from page 1)

To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him."

Thus, implication #1 from **Genesis 1:1** is that there is only one God. However, there is a second suggestion that naturally arises in the minds of those who believe the truth that God is the Creator of all.

him? Ps. 8:1,3,4

When David considered God's creative power in outer space, he felt very small, and he realized how honored man should be that this great God would take any interest in him!

As noted earlier in **Psalm 19:1-3**, any man anywhere on earth can look up into space at

out of the house of bondage.

"You shall have no other gods before Me.

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. Exodus 20:1-5

God Himself declares that He alone is God in Isaiah 44:6 & 8.

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.

Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.'"

We have looked at **Genesis 1:1** and seen that God justly assumes that you already know that He exists. We also saw three major implications that naturally arise from the simple statement that: **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."**

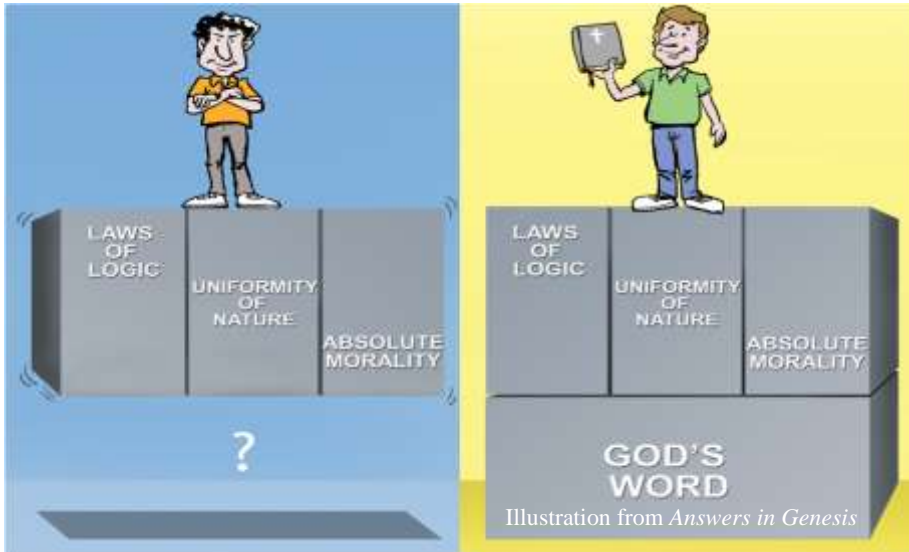
- 1) Implication #1 – There is only one God!
- 2) Implication #2 – God must be exceedingly powerful and wise!
- 3) Implication #3 – God alone deserves my worship!

Third, I would ask you to consider that ...

III. There are Conclusions that Should be

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... and we want to ask for no more snow days! If we get any more of them, we may lose some of our summer vacation! However, if You want to send us another two-hour delay ...!



How can those who deny God as the Creator hold to uniformity in nature, laws of logic, or an absolute moral standard? Without a God to set in place these factors necessary for human understanding,, how did they come to be?

B. This God must be exceedingly powerful and wise! A psalmist wrote in **Psalm 33:6-9**:

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

After looking into the heavens, David expressed his thoughts in **Psalm 8:1,3,4**. Do you not agree with him?

O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit

night and see the power, majesty, and wisdom of God! The Lord Himself states

"I have made the earth, And created man on it. I-My hands-stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded." Isaiah 45:12

The simple statement, **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"** can also stir up another implication in our minds.

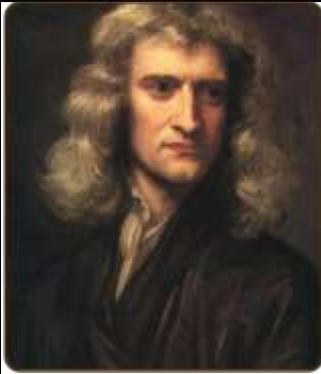
C. *God alone deserves my worship!* If there really is only one God, then I should not fear or worship any other deity. That is exactly what Jesus told Satan in **Matthew 4:10**:

Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

This is also the rationale behind the first two of the Ten Commandments.

And God spoke all these words, saying:

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,



Sir Isaac Newton— World-renowned scientist and author of Newtonian Physics, wrote in *A Short Schem [sic] of the True Religion:*

Sir Isaac Newton on Atheism

“Atheism is so senseless and odious to mankind that it never had many professors. ...Did blind chance know that there was light and what was its refraction and fit the eyes of all creatures after the most curious manner to make use of it? These and such like considerations always have and ever will prevail with mankind to believe that there is a being who made all things and has all things in his power and who is therefore to be feared.” [Emphasis added]

God is Great! (continued from page 2)

Drawn from this Statement! If an awesomely powerful and wise God created all you see, you should also be able to draw some simple conclusions from this truth. I ask you to consider only three.

A. God owns all He has created! Let’s suppose your friend Bob Smith created his own car “from scratch”! He used no copyrighted parts at all, but started with his brand-new design and put together “The Smithmobile” (his name for his car).

Another good friend, Joe Jones, viewed Bob’s work and told him that he cannot name his car, “The Smithmobile”, but should instead call it, “The Smithsonian”. If you were Bob, what would you say to Joe (respectfully of course)? Do you not agree that Bob would be justified to tell Joe that since he created the car, he has the right to name it as he pleases? Why? Because since Bob is the car’s creator, Bob is also its owner!

Do you get the connection with **Genesis 1:1**? Since the heavens, earth, and all that exist within them are created by God; this means that **God owns it all!** Again, when

you start to think about these truths, another important concept becomes evident.

B. God owns you! Since you exist as a direct result of God’s creative actions, God owns you as well! **Exodus 20:11** states: “*For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them....*” Thus, since you live and thrive in the universe God created, and since you get your life and your every breath from Him, **God owns you!** Once you grab on to that conclusion, another should quickly follow.

C. You are accountable to God as your Creator! This explains why you and I will one day stand before the God of the Universe and give an account for our lives: we owe that to Him since He created us! **Hebrews 9:27** clearly states, “*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment*” **Romans 14:12** says something similar: “*So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*”

Thus, from **Genesis 1:1** we learn that **God is great**, because He has created the heavens and the earth. The assumption Moses, the writer – and God, the Ultimate Author – of **Genesis**, are making is that you already know that God exists, but that you might need to know that there

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Coming Events

April—

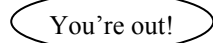
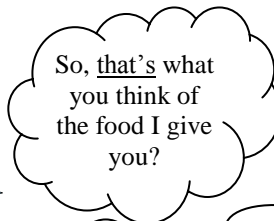
- 6-10—Missions Conference
- 10—Afternoon Family dinner
- 17—Teen night during evening service
- 24—Easter Sunrise service at 6:30A.M

May—

- 14-15— Fifth Annual Spring Concert
- 18—Final Buckaroo & Teen group night
- 21— Choir Music Seminar with Tim Fisher at Duryea
- 22—Closing night for Buckaroos
- 29—Family night at 4:30 P.M.

June

- 12—Graduates Night during evening service
- 20-24—Vacation Bible School



The rebirth of the male ego! Father with his 6 yr. old son.

Who is God? God is Great! (continued from page 3)

is only one Creator. When you begin to think about this truth, this implies that there is only one all-wise, all-powerful God, and that He owns all that He has created – including you! Since you get your life from Him, it is reasonable to expect that one day you will give an account to Him!

But what if that was all you knew? How would you know how to please God or to prepare for your judgment before Him? What should you do if you feel you have failed Him? What are His standards, and what happens to you if you do not measure up to them? **You need more information!** I hope this mental exercise will help you to appreciate just how precious it is to have a copy of the Bible! I hope you will also realize some of the horrifying predicaments that many people across the world are in who have no Bible in their language or who have no ability to read God's Word!

As a result of understanding the truth of

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth", you should ...

1. Appreciate the truth that **God is great!** "*The heavens declare the glory of God....*"

Ps 19:1

2. Realize why you rightfully belong to God and are accountable to Him. *Why? He created you!*

3. Understand that you will one day give an account to your Creator for how you lived the life that He gave you!

4. Recognize the fact that merely knowing that a powerful God created you and all other things does not answer many of the other key questions of life! *Questions like ...*

- What is God like?
- What does God expect of me?
- What if I fail to meet God's expectations for me?
- Will God forgive me if I fail Him? If so – how?
- What does God plan for me after I leave

this life?

These and many other questions remain unanswered without further revelation from God! This means that you should ...

5. Appreciate the great privilege of having a chance to read and study God's Word!

As you further study the Bible, you can gain the answers to the other vital questions of life. You can learn that mankind has indeed failed to meet God's standards! In fact, **Romans 3:10** speaks for the entire human race when it boldly proclaims: "*As it is written: 'There is none righteous [i.e. good before God], no, not one ...*"

Later revelation in God's Word (found in **Rom. 6:23**) teaches what God has decreed to be the payment necessary for each sin: "*For the wages of sin is death....*" **Rom 6:23**

Though most all humans understand physical death, the Scripture speaks of a "*second death*" where people suffer eternally, and it gives a list

(Continued on page 5)

Missions Conference: "I have Set Before Thee an Open Door" April 6th-10th !

Sunrise Service on April 24th



This year's Missions Conference will be held on April 6th-10th and will be emphasizing reaching out to the closed countries throughout the world.

In a time when certain countries seem closed to the Gospel, the need is greater than ever to reach even these closed areas with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This year, the church's leadership is seeking to bring in various missionaries who are called to spread the Gospel in difficult areas.

For example, one of our guest speakers, Paul Williams, is the director of Karatek Int. which seeks to use the radio as a strategic evangelistic outreach in getting the Gospel through the airwaves. He has built several radio stations throughout the world in order to reach those who normally wouldn't have heard the truth of God's Word. He will be sharing how the Lord has used the radio ministry to save souls and how he has seen Christians grow as well.

Please come to these exciting evenings of emphasis on missions, and see how the Lord is working around the world! Also, come prepared to allow the Lord to do a work in your own life in how He wants you to further the Gospel throughout the world. For further information, please call either Pastor Jones (729-7017) or Pastor Hanson (729-4090).



Resurrection Sunday Schedule

6:30 AM—Sunrise Service

7:30 AM—Sunrise Breakfast

9:00 AM—Sunday School

10:00 AM—Morning Worship

No evening service!

Resurrection or Easter Sunday is always an exciting time at Calkins as we celebrate the bodily resurrection of our Savior. The schedule is changed on that day with the service times as follows:

6:30 AM—Sunrise Service

7:30 AM—Sunrise breakfast

9:00 AM—Sunday school—*This is an hour earlier than our normal schedule.*

10:00 AM—Morning worship—*This too is one hour earlier than our normal 11:00 AM service.*

The normally-scheduled 6:30 PM evening service is cancelled on that week.

A nursery is provided for all services. The breakfast is free of charge, and all who attend one of the services are welcome to join us.

Each service is unique, so why not come and join us for the entire morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord?

Who is God? God is Great! (cont. from page 4)

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of people who will suffer this fate.

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Revelation 21:8

keeps His word (unless we are missing some other piece of information), **all humans would be doomed to eternal torment**, but if God does not keep His word and allows those who are sinners to enter Heaven, than **He Himself has lied!** Again, it should be obvious that **we need more information!**

Once again, that information is to be found within the pages of God's Word. As

many, many, more!

The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Cor. 15:3,4:

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures....

Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in your place to pay the full penalty for your sin! Thus, if you have not yet accepted Christ as your Savior from sin, do so immediately! Also, if you have already accepted Christ, you must help take the message of God and His love to all the world! Before Christ left this world, He told His followers: **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."** Mark 16:15

This is one of the major purposes of *The Calkins Baptist Beacon*: to share the good news of God's forgiveness and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Through 39 sacred books of the Jewish prophets and through thousands of years of human history, followers of the True God, the Creator of heaven and earth, anticipated the Savior's coming.

Dear Friend, I would ask you to honestly look at that list and see if you are headed to that awful place! You should also remember that **Heb. 6:18** teaches that it is **"impossible for God to lie ..."** Please notice just the final group of people doomed to the second death: liars. You might admit that you have lied in the past, but claim that you are not a liar. *The New English Translation* renders the word **"liars"** as: **"all those who lie."** Just as a person who commits only one murder is a murderer, so a person who tells only one lie is still a liar.

Many people rightly conclude that every human other than Christ Himself fits the list of those who are going to experience God's eternal wrath. However, some then wrongly hope that since God is merciful (another concept taught elsewhere in the Bible), He will overlook many sins and allow those who were mostly good (whatever that means) to enter Heaven.

Hopefully you can see the dilemma. If God

far back as **Genesis 3**, the Scriptures predicted the coming of a Savior (often called "Anointed", "Messiah" or "Christ") who would deliver the world from sin. Through 39 sacred books of the Jewish prophets and through thousands of years of human history, followers of the True God, the Creator of heaven and earth, anticipated the Savior's coming.

Slowly, more details were recorded to help identify the Savior when He would arrive. He would be both God and man (**Isa. 9:6**), born of a virgin (**Isa. 7:14**), in the small town of Bethlehem (**Mic. 5:2**), as a direct descendant of Israel's greatest king, David (**Jer. 23:5,6**). He would suffer horribly and unexpectedly as a sacrifice for sin (**Isa. 52:13-53:12**), but would be resurrected before His body decomposed (**Psa. 16:10**).

Jesus of Nazareth, often called Jesus Christ or the Son of God, fulfilled each of these predictions completely and



Secular

Secular
vs.
Biblical



Biblical

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No God > Just time & chance > No rules > No purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > God of the Bible > God's sovereignty > God's rules > God's purpose
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It really does matter what you believe!

All Scripture quotes are from the Holy Bible: New King James Version. All emphasis in verses is added.

Financial Peace University Class Coming Soon This Summer!

Beginning on May 17th and continuing for the following 13 weeks, Calkins Baptist Church will be offering a financial class from the Financial Peace University (FPU) which will be opened to the entire community. The class will take place on Tuesday evenings at 7:00-9:00 PM at the church, and the recorded lectures by Dave Ramsey will be shown during this time.

The registration fee is \$100.00 per family which includes a workbook, audio CD library, an envelope system, and some extra financial information. This class is only available to those who register.

According to the FPU's materials: "the average family that completes the class pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 during

**Interested
but Uncertain?
Free Preview Night:**

**Tuesday, May 3rd at
7:00 PM at Calkins
Baptist Church
527 Calkins Rd.
Milanville, PA**

the 13 weeks." Please register soon and take advantage of this opportunity to be a better steward of the finances that God has blessed you. For further information, please contact Josh Sheard at (570) 729-1020.

I don't need to worry about my finances!



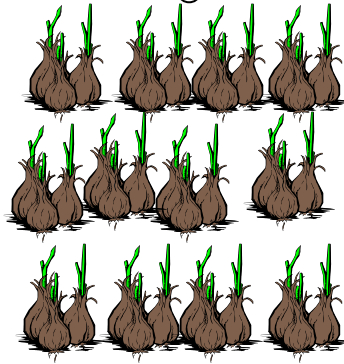
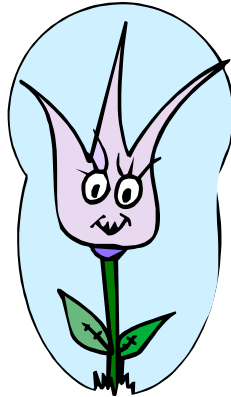
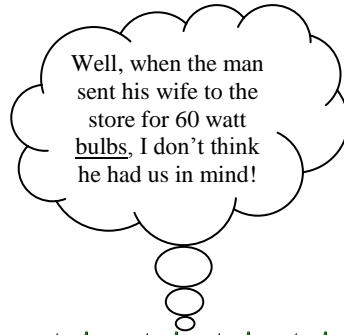
Now .. About those bounced checks!





A Problem Starting to Bloom?

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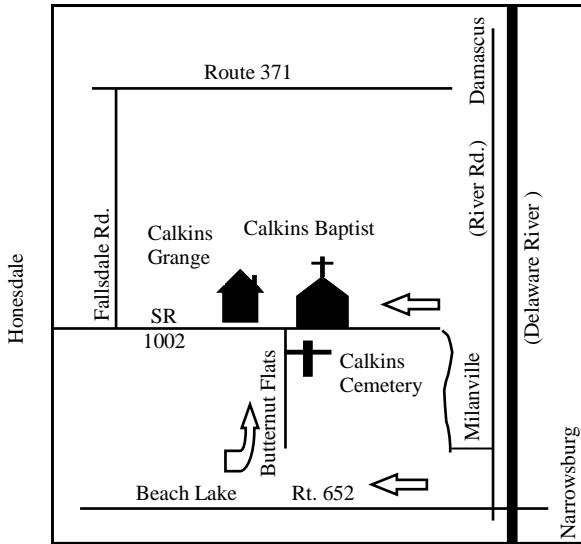
Our Service Times

Sunday
 8:30 AM Morning Service
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Morning Service
 6:30 PM Evening Service

Wednesday
 6:30 PM Buckaroo Club
 Proteens
 Bible Study

Come Join Us!

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