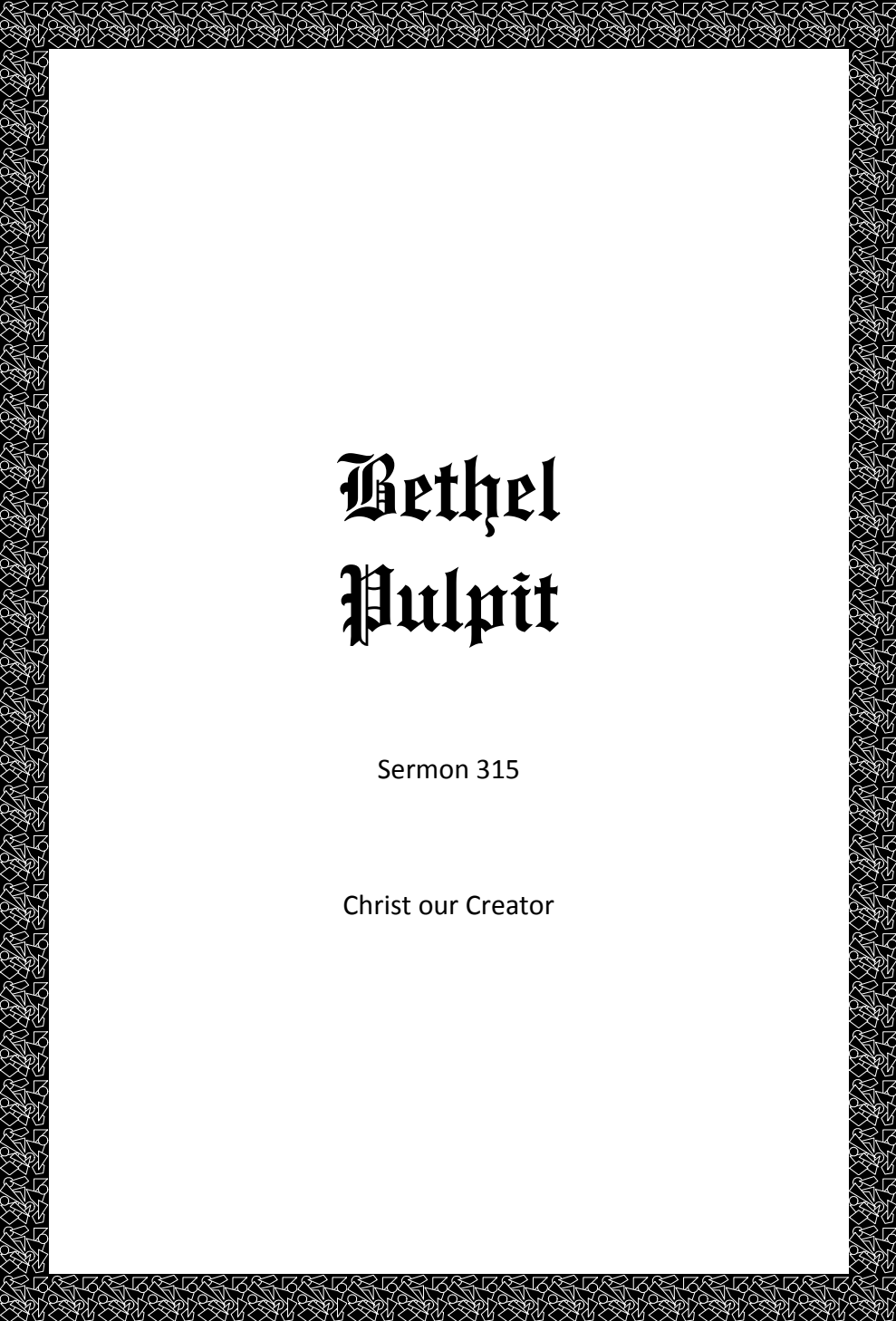




Bethel Pulpit

Sermon 315

Christ our Creator

**Sermon preached at Bethel Chapel, Luton,
by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom,
on Lord's day evening, 18th September, 2011**

Text: *"All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1. 3).*

We need to be reminded continually of these fundamental truths. Beloved friends, we believe in creation, not in evolution. We need to be reminded of these things, to be reminded that in six days God created heaven and earth, and He saw that it was all very good; that there is an almighty Creator. We believe this by faith. We believe this as the record of the holy, infallible Word of God. Also, we believe that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the Creator along with His beloved Father and the Holy Ghost. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator. We have it put so simply here: "All things were made by Him." We do need to be reminded of the greatness, the glory, the majesty, the authority, the power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, one with His Father, and yet a distinct Person from His Father, and yet equally with His Father and with the Holy Ghost true, almighty God. These things we believe by faith as the record of the Word of God.

So we have it here: "In the beginning" – from all eternity – "was the Word." Why is this title given to the Lord Jesus? I take it the point simply is this: it is by the Lord Jesus that the Father is made known. It is by the Lord Jesus that the Godhead is made known. You and I are known to other people by our words. People do not know what we really are, what we are really thinking, what our opinion is, whether we are happy, whether we are sad. They may guess. They may guess from our appearance. Often that belies what we really are thinking. But when we speak, we make known what we believe, what we are thinking, what we are doing. And eternal God is revealed, made known, in His beloved Son.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God" – a separate Person, a distinct Person – "and the Word was God." This is conclusive, who the Lord Jesus is. "The Word *was* God. The same was in the beginning with God."

He is the almighty Creator along with His Father. "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made." These are fundamental truths and we need to be reminded that our Lord

and Saviour Jesus Christ is our Creator. He is the One who created all things by the Word of His power. He is the One who “spake, and it was done.” Now do you believe it? Can you go to Bethlehem and look on a helpless Babe lying in the manger, and believe that He is your Creator and your God? Can you go to Calvary and see a Man suffering and dying, and believe that that Man is your Creator, your God? These are the two highest acts of faith.

“Where reason fails with all its powers,
There faith believes and love adores.”

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” So I feel led this evening to call our attention and our thoughts back to this vital, fundamental truth: who the Lord Jesus is, that He is true, almighty God, and that the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is *our Creator*.

“All things were made by Him.” Now there is a foundation there. We live in a terrible day. We wonder whatever we are going to hear of next, whatever we are going to read of next – things in our country, the recent riots, the dreadful immorality, the opposition to Christianity; things that are happening in Libya and Syria and other places; and we hardly know what we are going to hear next. Is there any purpose? What is happening? Are things out of control? There is a foundation here. There is a Man in heaven who once lived upon this earth, and,

“This wondrous Man of whom we tell,
Is true Almighty God.”

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” Now there is the foundation.

It was many, many years ago that the psalmist cried out, looking round, “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” And we are living in a day in which it seems that the foundations are being destroyed – the foundations of morality, the foundations of law and order, the foundations of society, the foundations of life, the foundations which have been laid in the past in England. The foundations are being removed. “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

Well, there is a foundation here that cannot be moved. These things are not out of control. Things are not happening by blind chance. The Lord Jesus with His Father and with the Holy Ghost, the Lord Jesus in

heaven at His Father's right hand, He is the One who created all things, and we are told that He "upholds all things by the Word of His power," and He controls everything. He overrules. If evil takes place, it is only by His divine permission, and even then it will work for His honour and glory. Satan opposes, Satan seems to be let loose, but he is under the control of this almighty Creator. The Creator is making all things work together for good. None of His purposes are being overthrown. All of them are being fulfilled. The government is upon His shoulder. The great things in the earth, the small things – "My life's minutest circumstance." What did Gadsby say?

"There's not a particle of dust can fly,
A sparrow fall, or cloud obscure the sky,
A moth be crushed, or leaf fall from a tree,
But in submission to His wise decree."

God is in control, and He who created all things in the beginning will at the end of time bring them to a conclusion, when this earth will be burned up with fire and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. But never forget there is a foundation here that the Creator still lives and the Creator still reigns and the Creator is still almighty. And His name is Jesus.

"All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made." There is a foundation also in this. This glorious Person, a foundation for our hope, a foundation for our faith, the only foundation for our hope, the only foundation for our faith. But let us be clear, our faith and hope do not rest on the Lord Jesus as our Creator. They rest on the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. In creation it was an easy thing. "He spake, and it was done." But not the salvation of sinners. There was more needed than that for the salvation of sinners, and we have it beautifully opened up here. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." He came from heaven to earth. As Calvin said, "The Son of God became the Son of man that the sinful sons of men might become the sons of God."

"The Word was made flesh." Why was He made flesh? In order that He might die to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Why was He made flesh? That He might shed His precious, sin-atoning blood. For "without shedding of blood is no remission." So,

*"Here we have a firm foundation;
Here's the refuge of the lost" –*

not in the Son of God as the Creator, not the Son of God as “in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” But in this: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Do not forget that these words were written by John, John the disciple. I know they were written by immediate, divine inspiration of the Holy Ghost. But these words were written by a man who knew the Lord Jesus closely, intimately, as his Master, as his Friend. He leaned his head on Jesus’ breast. He knew well that the Word was made flesh. He knew well that the Lord Jesus was a real Man without ever ceasing to be true, almighty God. John well knew the real, true, sacred humanity of the Lord Jesus, a real Man though without sin. And it is John who says, “We beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

So we have the foundation here. We have a foundation in the Lord’s control of what is going on in the world, in society – all things in control – as our Creator. But then this deeply-laid foundation for our hope, for our faith, for our forgiveness, for our salvation, for a never-ending eternity, not in the Son of God just as our Creator, but as our Saviour, our Redeemer, as He went to Gethsemane, as He went to Calvary to suffer, bleed and die. Never forget that the One who suffered, bled and died was our Creator. There is a lot of good divinity in that verse though we do not sing it very much:

“‘Twas our Creator for us bled” – do you believe it?

“‘Twas our Creator for us bled,
The Lord of life and power;
Whom angels worship, devils dread –
God blest for evermore.”

“All things were made by Him.” You go to the Garden; you go to the judgment hall; you go to Calvary; and there as you see a dear Man bleeding and dying, “all things were made by Him.” Beloved friends, what a wonderful display we have of this when they came to arrest our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Garden. What a wonderful display! He was not like Adam in the Garden of Eden; Adam fled. The Lord Jesus our Creator went to meet them. He said, “Whom seek ye?” They said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Now that was the name of shame, ignominy, the name by

which He was despised. He was God, He was the Creator, and they called Him just Jesus of Nazareth. Here you see the matchless condescension. Here you see the love. Jesus said, “I am He” – Jesus of Nazareth.

But do not forget those two words, “I am,” the great, eternal, everlasting I AM, the One who revealed Himself to Moses: “I AM THAT I AM,” the eternal Creator. And they fell backward in helplessness. The wickedness of the human heart that they came a second time. “Whom seek ye?” “Jesus of Nazareth.” They were helpless, prostrate before Him. “If therefore ye seek me” – this is the great Creator. Do you believe it, “He who could dash whole worlds to death, and make them when He please”? “If therefore ye seek Me,” take Me, bind Me, crucify Me, but “let these” – My followers – “go their way.” And do not forget that word was spoken by your almighty Creator, and dear child of God, that is your passport to heaven. It secures your everlasting security, because it is a word of omnipotence. It is not just spoken to Judas and the band of men that were with him. It is spoken to the law with all its condemnation, spoken to divine justice, spoken to His Father in heaven. “Let these” – My followers – “go their way.” And there you have the everlasting safety and security of the whole church of God, a word spoken by a Man, a suffering Man, a holy Man, but our Creator.

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” If there is a hymn that I like, it is hymn 1012, on this point:

“It were an easy part
For Him the cross to fly;
But love to sinners fills His heart,
And makes Him choose to die.”

And this, and may it touch your heart, beloved friends, tonight:

“’Tis love the cause unfolds,
The deep mysterious cause,
Why He who all the world upholds,
Hangs upon yonder cross.”

He is the Creator. He said, “No man taketh [My life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.” Then why does

He go to the cross, if “it were an easy part for Him the cross to fly”? Now listen to it again:

“’Tis love the cause unfolds,
The deep mysterious cause,
Why He who all the world upholds,
Hangs upon yonder cross.”

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” Now there are a few things that flow from this for our help and comfort this evening. So just a few things, looking on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as being almighty, remembering that He is the Creator of all things. Of course He displayed this in His miracles, making the blind to see, and the lame to walk, and the deaf to hear, and making the dead to live. He was displaying His power that He was the almighty Creator. But what does it mean to you and me tonight? Well, a lot of things. When you come to the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in prayer, you think of His tender, kind, loving, sympathising heart; you think of His understanding; you think of His mercy; you think of His love. But never forget He is the great Creator, and it means this:

“With heaven and earth at His command,
He waits to answer prayer.”

Never forget that when you go with your hard cases. They are not too hard for Him. The great Creator, with Him “nothing shall be impossible.” “The cause that is too hard for you” – and we have many of those – “*bring it unto Me*, and I will hear it.” O remember this point concerning your prayers. When you come with your hard things, your impossible things, your difficulties, “all things were made by Him.” He is the great Creator.

And so He is the great Deliverer. How often we need deliverance. We read so much of deliverance in Scripture. And so much of the experience of the people of God is in their trials and deliverances. I am sure there are many of you here tonight and you need deliverance in one way or another. “Call upon Me.” Do not forget this is the almighty Creator who speaks. “Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.”

“All things were made by Him.” This is the One who upholds you in your time of bereavement, and your time of sorrow, and your time of helplessness, and your time of need. “The eternal God is thy refuge, and

underneath are the everlasting arms.” They are almighty arms, omnipotent arms. This is the great Creator. What does the hymn say? –

“How can I sink with such a prop
That holds the world and all things up?”

He is almighty. He “upholds all things by the word of His power.” And so He can uphold you, and He has promised to uphold you. “Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.”

“All things were made by Him,” the great Creator. O the authority, the power, the omnipotence of the exalted Saviour in heaven tonight! He is the One who will keep you from falling. He is greater than sin, greater than Satan, greater than the world, greater than temptation. And He “is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless,” and He is able to hold you fast. He is able to bring you through. That is why the whole church of God is eternally safe. He has never lost one yet; He never will. It is because He is almighty.

“All things were made by Him.” This is the One who gives you strength equal to your day. He is strong Himself, but He is blessedly able to convey strength, to communicate it, to give it when you feel weak and helpless and you cannot go on. “As thy days, so shall thy strength be.” This is the One who graciously has promised to supply all your needs. “Jehovah Jireh, the Lord will provide.” “All creatures obey His command,” whether it is ravens at the Brook Cherith or whether it is the widow woman, or whether He makes the iron to swim, or whether He makes the waters of the Red Sea to divide. “All creatures obey His command.” And, “My God shall supply all your need” – all of it – “according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” This, beloved friends, is a vital truth. It is a foundation truth, that this wondrous Man, our God and our Saviour, a real Man but true, almighty God, He is your Creator and He is almighty.

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” Well, the godly Puritans used to talk about the application at the end. They knew as well as anyone that only the Holy Ghost can apply, but we know what they meant. So two or three things in application of this wonderful subject. And the first is this: that if the Lord

Jesus is true, almighty God, the Word, the Creator of all things, if it is true He lived on earth and died and rose again, if it is true that our Creator one day will be our Judge and judge the world in righteousness, then our great need is to be prepared to meet Him. “What think ye of Christ?” It is the great question to weigh up everything.

Now have we got a right relationship? Does it concern us? By nature we have not. We are lost and ruined, guilty, sinful. By nature our carnal hearts reject this glorious Christ, our Creator, the Word made flesh. What have we got here? “He was in the world, and the world was made by Him.” And the wonder of it: “The world knew Him not. He came unto His own.” That is the Jews, His own people. “His own received Him not.” That is you and me today by nature. We receive Him not. “The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not,” then and now; when He was here on earth and now today. “The light shineth in darkness,” but we do not comprehend it; we do not see it; we do not understand it. “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God ... they are spiritually discerned.” This is you and me by nature. But then we read of a wonderful birth and the effect of it. “But as many as received Him” – the Word made flesh, the One by whom all things were made – “As many as received Him, to them gave He power” – that means the privilege, the authority, the right – “to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”

So the great, the vital point this evening as we consider this glorious Man who is true, almighty God: is He our foundation? Is He the Object of our faith? Is He our trust? As sinners have we had to pray to Him, of necessity come to Him and confess our sins to Him, to flee for refuge to Him, believe on Him to the saving of our souls, receive Him in our hearts as our only hope of heaven? O are you and I embraced in this word: “As many as received Him” – no more, no less – “to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”? That heavenly birth, that is the first thing and the vital thing. Are we true believers on the Word made flesh? Has the Holy Spirit created a place in our hearts which none but Christ can fill? Is it our desire that He might enter and fill it? “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” This glorious Man.

“All things were made by Him.” And then a second application: He is the Object of our worship, reverence and adoration, gratitude for what He has done. Do we really believe what we do believe, that it was our great Creator who in the fulness of time left heaven for earth to be “a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,” to suffer, bleed and die? Do we really believe it? Are our hearts full of gratitude for it? What of that word: “Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich”? You know what it is: “Go worship at Immanuel’s feet,” because if He is almighty God, if He is the omnipotent Creator, as Immanuel He is God with us. O but to be blessed with that holy reverence and true gratitude, and to worship at Immanuel’s feet.

“All things were made by Him.” And then a third and final thing: to walk in obedience to Him, to honour Him, to forsake all things for Him, to be willing to lay down our life for Him, to “go forth ... unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach,” constrained by His love, what He has done, His matchless condescension.

“All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.”

Well, beloved friends, what a subject! And we need to be reminded of some of these things which are the very foundation of our most holy faith and the foundation of our hope. Without them we would not have any hope. We are lost, ruined, guilty sinners, but there is a Man, a glorious Man, our Saviour, our Redeemer, who lived and died and rose again and ascended. But ever remember, never forget, that He is our Creator and He is our Lord and He is our God.

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.”