



Advanced Bible Correspondence Course

Lesson 9: God the Father

LORD'S DAY 9

Q.26. WHAT BELIEVEST THOU WHEN THOU SAYEST, "I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH"?

ANSWER: THAT THE ETERNAL FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (WHO OF NOTHING MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, WITH ALL THAT IS IN THEM (A); WHO LIKEWISE UPHOLDS AND GOVERNS THE SAME BY HIS ETERNAL COUNSEL AND PROVIDENCE (B) IS FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST HIS SON, MY GOD AND MY FATHER (C); ON WHOM I RELY SO ENTIRELY, THAT I HAVE NO DOUBT BUT HE WILL PROVIDE ME WITH ALL THINGS NECESSARY FOR SOUL AND BODY (D), AND FURTHER, THAT HE WILL MAKE WHATEVER EVILS HE SENDS UPON ME, IN THIS VALLEY OF TEARS, TURN OUT TO MY ADVANTAGE (E); FOR HE IS ABLE TO DO IT, BEING ALMIGHTY GOD (F), AND WILLING, BEING A FAITHFUL FATHER (G).

(A) GENESIS 1&2; EXODUS 20:11; JOB 33:4; JOB 38&39; ACTS 4:24, 14:15; PSALM 33:6; ISAIAH 45:7; (B) HEBREWS 1:3; PSALM 104:27-30, 115:3; MATTHEW 10:29; EPHESIANS 1:11; (C) JOHN 1:12; ROMANS 8:15; GALATIANS 4:5-7; EPHESIANS 1:5; (D) PSALM 55:22; MATTHEW 6:25-26; LUKE 12:22; (E) ROMANS 8:28; (F) ISAIAH 46:4; ROMANS 10:12; (G) MATTHEW 6:32&33, 7:9-11

God the Father the Creator

True faith confesses that God is Father. God is the eternal Father of His Son Jesus Christ. In addition faith says that God is the Almighty One *and* that He is the Creator of heaven and earth.

God says, *"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things"* (Isaiah 45:7). Creation is a matter of faith. In the Bible we read: *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear"* (Hebrews 11:3). The creation is not eternal, but had a beginning. The first Bible verse reads, *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). Being the Almighty One, God could do this. So things did not come into existence through evolution or by development. God created everything, also man. He also upholds all things. He governs all that is created.

How? He does so by His eternal counsel and providence. “Counsel” means that God governs everything according to a specific plan. “Providence” (to provide is to care for) indicates that God provides all things necessary. The true believer may call God his Father, because God has adopted him, for Christ’s sake, as His child. He who has such a Father, Who created heaven and earth may also trust that he will receive everything that he needs for soul and body. By “all things necessary” is meant: that which we miss, but yet cannot do without. Also in harm and danger, God’s child may believe that God will turn all afflictions in his life to his advantage, will turn them into something good. Hunger, war, unemployment, broken relationships, sicknesses, and losses, all prove that life is a vale of tears. Paul says, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”* (Romans 8:28). God can do all this because He is the Almighty One. He will and shall perform it because He is a faithful Father.

Questions:

1. *Can we understand creation?*

2. *Why may a true believer call God his Father?*

3. *Why is life here below called “a vale of tears”?*

4. *Read the last four verses of Matthew 6. What is the Lord called there?*

Evaluator: _____

Meditation: “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.” John 1:12

Man lost paradise by receiving a gift from Satan. There is no way to regain it but by receiving Christ, the gift of God. Am I one of the many who have received Christ? This question is of eternal moment. If I have not received him, no matter what I profess, by what name I am called, what I think of myself, or others think of me; for I am certainly in a state of wrath, exposed to eternal damnation. What answer does conscience return to this important question? God may this day require my soul. I may be in eternity before the light of another morning. Have I received Christ or not?

What is it to receive Christ? Many precious souls are sadly perplexed and greatly distressed on this point. But why should they be? St. John plainly tells us, that to receive Christ, is to believe on his name, that he is the anointed Saviour of lost sinners. Do you receive this truth into your heart? Does your mind go out after Christ? Do you hunger and thirst to know him as your Saviour? Then you do believe in Christ’s name. Bless the Holy Spirit, who has opened your eyes to see his glory and your heart to receive this precious Jesus: hear and rejoice: he gives you, and all such, “power to become the sons of God.” Not merely puts it in the power of your free will to choose whether you will become a son of God or not; but he actually bestow this heavenly power upon us. He gives us the *right* (or privilege) of enjoying the comfort and blessing of being adopted sons of God. O the riches of new covenant grace and love! What a miracle of mercy is this! Of the children of wrath and heirs of hell, Christ makes us sons of God and heirs of heaven!

Why then do you ever live uncomfortably, or walk unholy? It is because you do not assert your *right*, maintain your *privilege*, and live up to your *power*, in your mind and conscience. Hence love to and delight in your Father God, and your Saviour Jesus, are wanting. O remember, ever remember, as you received Christ by faith, all your power, peace and comfort flow from him through faith: study, strive and pray to the Spirit to keep faith lively in act and exercise, that you may live and walk on earth so as to glorify your Father who is in heaven: for if you are a son of God, by faith in Christ, you have the heart of a son; the fear, the love, the hope, and the delight of a son of God; and you will rejoice to think that you shall soon be at home with your heavenly Father.

Taken from “A Spiritual Treasury for the Children of God” by William Mason