

The Essence of the Creator

The Word of God, the Bible, God's inspired Word, is the history of mankind as we believe it. I often ask myself: "How long did God wait before He decided to make us?" Regardless of the answer to this question, without a doubt, planning has always been part of Creation. From the first moment God wanted to share His life with us, He had a plan. And here we are today, still working on the plan He made for us – trying to get it right!

Each generation brings about change. It is a struggle to keep up. Depending on the lens we look through, our vision can be blurred, or clear. Our thought processes, working in multi directions, or the same direction, to bring new ideas into the mix. And we are tasked each day to reach out and bring spiritual life back into our living.

Being privileged to work with a group of people willing to create a plan that is God-glorifying has been fun, tedious, intellectually enriching and above all spiritually challenging.

This group, the SOS committee, are full of gratitude to you, all members of the body of Christ. Your contributions to this plan bring a sense of gratitude, from us, to both you and to God.

The essence of the Creator? – dare I ask this question? Imagine, for just a moment, that time when God made everything, and it was good! He made us perfect! Yet we look in the mirror with a critical eye and wish to be what? – more beautiful, less pimples, smiled more, the crow's feet to be gone? And we have learned so well how to cover up the imperfections, present the impeccable person.

2.

Oh, just a minute, you know, the way God made us – in His image! And that is just the physical appearance! What about the inner being, the spiritual being?

Without making this Reflection into a complete sermon (which you don't need, or want) I will take a few moments to reflect back on those verses from Ephesians 3. I have read them at least 50 times in the last few months and I have found no better verses to describe who we are to God – His beloved creation!

Question after question: “How in the world can I, this teeny, miniscule fragment of creation, make a difference? What am I called to do? Where do I fit in?”

Paul tells us – You are not alone. Be aware that you receive strength. Yes, the struggles are there – sickness, sin, death, opposition. But you are not alone! The power of God, His love, has been shown through the resurrection of Christ, and in giving to us the Comforter to walk with us.

Paul understood human weakness. So, he reminds them that their faith in Christ gives them strength – God living in His creation. Faith is believing and trusting and God dwelling within us. We are secure – How firm a foundation! And with all this knowledge we begin to understand the depth of love God has for us and we, in turn have for others. This is the bedrock for our faith – God's unshakeable love.

3.

And this is what we claim: God working in us to accomplish more than we can imagine and to glorify Creator.

And so, as we come together during this time, rough times for the church, tough times in the world and we seek to build God's Church. And we make plans to work together for the Kingdom. We seek ways to spread the Gospel. We hang on to the words of the hymn: What does the Lord require of you? To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with Your God!

We dare to make a difference in this world – let's make sure as we grow that we ***encourage, educate and reach out***. Let's make this world as God intended. Let the words we have heard over and over again touch us with incredible reverence: Deep Spirituality, Daring Justice, Bold Discipleship.

As we continue to work together, growing God's Church, be assured that God is at work within us. He has made us a resilient people. He has equipped us with everything we need.

Be prepared to be amazed. Look to the future with unfaltering faith. Discover afresh your gifts. Be bold to share them with others. Know that your voice in the world can stem the tide of injustice. Take a stand! Pray without ceasing! Rejoice, as together we glorify God, in giving to us a revised strategy, a continuing road map to grow His church.

May Jesus Christ be praised!