

The Greatness of God in the Greatness of Salvation  
Colossians 1:15-17

I've always loved anything and everything to do with space, and especially space travel. So when I found out about the theme for VBS this year, I was giddy for VBS to start. This past week at VBS, we've been **Galactic Starveyors** and our theme has been **searching the visible, discovering the invisible**. We looked at two major ideas this week, the greatness of God as found in His universe, and the greatness of God as found in salvation in Jesus Christ.

This morning I want to take you on a quick journey through parts of our universe to discover the greatness of our God for yourself. One of the first things we discovered is that **God speaks the universe into existence**. Genesis 1:1 says, *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* Psalm 33:6 says, *"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host."* Hebrews 11:3 also says, *"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."* We discovered that when God spoke, using nothing that had already been created, God spoke and the universe as we know it came into being.

And **God's universe, the heavens, declare God's greatness**. Psalm 19:1 says, *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."* Modern space exploration has given us spectacular pictures of God's handiwork, things we never would have dreamed existed in our universe. And the more we discover the more we see the greatness of our God. Along with the heavens declaring God's greatness, we learn in the Bible that **God is so great that he measures the universe in the span of his hand**. God asks of the false god's in a rhetorical fashion saying, *"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?"* God not only measures the universe with the span of his hand, He also **guides the constellations through the sky** as we find in Job 38:31-33 where God again asks rhetorically, *"Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up [God's] dominion over the earth?"*

And on top of all that, the Bible tells us that **God knows the names of all the stars**. Psalm 147:4 marvels saying, *"He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure."* Look at this picture. It's estimated, that in the known universe there are 1 septillion stars. That's a 1 with 24 zeros behind it, and that number is on the low end of how many stars astronomers think there may be. And the God of the Bible knows the name of every one.

But the greatest thing we learned this week was from our key verse for VBS, Colossians 1:15-17, that **the Lord Jesus Christ is the creator and sustainer of the universe**. Colossians 1:15 declares, *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*

**But sin entered the world and destroyed God's perfect creation**. And this is where we discovered all the more that not only can we see the greatness of God in creation, but we can see the even more glorious greatness of our God in our salvation.

Going all the way back to Genesis 3, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, we learned that our **relationship with God was broken**. Genesis tells us of an encounter between Eve and a creature called the Serpent, who we come to know later in the Bible is the Devil, the enemy of our souls. And as the Serpent speaks to Eve, he tempts Eve to sin against God, to rebel against God by eating the fruit of a tree God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from. But we read in Genesis 3:4, *"But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths."*

The extent of our broken relationship with God is explained in Romans 3:23, which we heard earlier, “... *for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.*”

But God, who created the universe, and created you and me, did not abandon us in this broken relationship, because even at the beginning of our broken relationship a **restoration was promised**. Going back to Genesis 3, we read about the curse God speaks to the Serpent where God says, “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*” God would send another, His great servant, who would see that God’s promise to make right what sin destroyed, would indeed be restored. Again, Romans reminds us of the broken relationship and promise of restoration in Romans 6:23 saying, “*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

And praise to our great God, through the promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, our relationship that was broken in the Garden, promised through all of the Bible, is **restored through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross**. Romans 5:8 says, “... *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*”

And with our relationship with God restored through our faith in Christ, **our relationship with Christ continues** as we are made sons and daughters of God. John 1:12-13 says, “*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*”

And friends, as our kids have learned all week, this salvation is for you as well. Psalm 8:3 says, “*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*” The God who has made this spectacular universe we live in, who has provided a planet with all you need, who holds the universe in His hand and sustains it with His powerful word, **cares about you**. And to show how much God cares for you, God tells us in Isaiah 43:1 says, “*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.*” God cares for you, and God knows your name.

For the Galactic Starveyors the invisible has been made known in the visible and living person of Jesus Christ.

At one point this week I was down in the basement of the Student Center moving some things around and I came across this picture. (Show picture)

Will you trust Jesus Christ, the creator, sustainer, and God of the universe to be your savior and Lord on earth?