

LD 9; Mt. 6:25-34; Rom. 8:28-30; Our Creator and Father I. The Father's Work II. The Child's Trust  
Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, what are fathers like? When you think of your father, perhaps you think of someone who was firm but loving. Most young children have an inflated view of their own father's ability- as many kids have been known to brag- my dad is stronger than you dad! It is a great blessing to have Christian father's that care for us, protect us and provide for us. However, some others did not have the best dads. When thinking about God as our Father, some Christians struggle with this concept as their own fathers were cruel or uncaring. But in learning about our Heavenly Father, we can see that even the best earthly father pales in comparison to Him! Over the next weeks, we will consider the various phrases of the AC and we start by considering God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. With this theme: Jesus Christ makes us children of our Heavenly Father for our eternal comfort!

### **I. The Father's Work**

In our first point, we consider the Father's work. And the first work starts in the beginning- that is the creation of the heavens and the earth. Now it is interesting that theories concerning creation are many and they are diverse. Some people seriously believe that aliens from another planet sowed the seeds of life in this world- that anything that makes this world special is because of some experiment performed by intelligent beings from another planet. That is their explanation for how life appeared on this earth. But that only pushes the question back future- because if aliens created life on earth- where did the aliens come from? Others still believe that the world evolved over billions of years- that life simply came to be as creatures crawled out of the primordial goo. But here again- where did the stuff that went bang come from? We have never witnessed life coming from non-life- where thinking creatures came from inanimate objects. Something does not come out of nothing! So we are still left with this burning question- where does life and substance come from? When did everything begin? The Bible gives us the answer we need by revealing that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now you will remember, that in referencing the Father and our creation, this is not to saying that the Son and the Spirit were not present and active. No, we know that the Spirit was

hovering and the Son was the Word spoken now made flesh at the beginning. It is very important to know where you came from. To remember your roots- lest you forget your family. This is all the more important when it comes to your creation! God would have us know that He made us and we are His! Or as Heb. 11 puts it, by faith we know that God created the universe by His Word. Not by using pre-existing material, but rather He made all out of nothing. So nothing that exists can say- I am my own master and maker. No, all creatures- and even all substance- comes from Him alone. Added to this, God also continues to preserve that which He has made. Psalm 136 says that God gives to all creatures their food in due season. God does not create the world and just spin it out on its own. He does not leave this world to run by its own laws. Rather, God continues to care for His creatures. He upholds them and rules over them as our Catechism states. So the Deist like Thomas Jefferson are firmly refuted. Without the constant care of our creator, all things would cease to be. The delicate balance is upheld- as our world continues in season and out of season like a choreographed dance. In fact, Col. 1 reveals that all things are held together by the Son. So the Father holds the world together by the Son. So our heavenly Father keeps all things that He has made- sustains His creation- so that this world might continue to turn. Our reading from Mt. 6 makes it clear that our Father looks after the birds of the air, the flowers and the grass of the field. He provides shelter and food for these small creatures- objects that are seemingly insignificant in our eyes are yet the recipients of God's special care and concern. Children, have you ever forgotten to take care of your pet? Let's say that you are busy all day and you get home late- only to be told by your parents that your dog needs to be fed- or your pet fish needs its food. Well, our God never forgets! He never overlooks or needs to be reminded! He is constantly caring for all of His creatures! Each one receives exactly the amount of sustenance that He has designed for it! Not one bird falls to the ground unless and until the LORD sees fit! This concept of God's providence will be unfolded next week, so we can leave this issue for now. But before we move to the next point, we have to see how foolish and rebellious it is for a creature to deny its creator. In Isaiah 1, the LORD marvels at the fact that the ox knows its master and the donkey knows its stable. Dumb animals know who they belong to and they

recognize their master. In other words, animals know their place! But man, well, man likes to think that he is his own master! Foolish and rebellious man- who refuses to honor and acknowledge the God who made them! Just as it is a disrespectful child who refuses to acknowledge his own parents, fellow man rebelliously pretends that the heavenly Father is not there! It is one thing for a child to forget to give their father a card on Father's Day- it is quite another for mankind to act as if God the Father does not exist! Let that not be of us- let us acknowledge God our Father who made us and takes care of us! As the Creator, everything belongs to God! The cattle on 1000 hills are his- every creature- in fact all of Creation—is His! He has the right of ownership because He made them all out of nothing- each is the product of His hand!

## II. The Child's Trust

But as we continue, we see that belonging to God- being made by Him- is a doctrine of good news! There is great comfort for God's people- specifically for His children- because we do belong and are being taken care of! As our QA continues- not only is God the creator and sustainer of all things- this creator has become our Father through Jesus Christ! The Creator is my God and Father! There is an added benefit- a closer and intimate relationship here acknowledged. Yes, God is the creator of all beings. But this God is also now my loving Father! Now how do we know that God is our Father? Or how does God become our Father? Well, we will get into this topic a little more in LD 13- but suffice it to say that we are the adopted children of God- adopted by grace- made to be children because of our union with Christ. The Father of Jesus has become my Father! The Heavenly Father was a Father before He made us- but He chooses to extend His Fatherhood in making man who would become His children as well. So the picture presented is that God has placed His special love and affection on us- so that we are lovingly and firmly kept in His hands. So in acknowledging that God is the creator is made personal- He is my loving Father. This fact leads to trust- a childlike trust and dependence. Knowing who God is – and what He has become to us- is the foundation for a childlike faith. One of the ways in which you see the trust of a child in their parents is when they are at the pool. Have you ever seen a little child encouraged by their parent? Come, jump in, I will catch you! This small act of faith

tests the child- will my father really catch me or will he let me drown? Well, we live in a world a lot scarier than a swimming pool! Will we trust Him to catch us- to keep us safe?

As our heavenly Father, we have the comfort of knowing that He will both protect and provide. So first of all, we can trust in our heavenly Father to protect. Our heavenly Father protects and defends His children. As Psalm 34 says, those who seek the Lord will lack no good thing. Living in a world filled with enemies and in the context of trials, tribulations and temptations; we can have good confidence in the defense and protection of our God. He will always be with us- never will He leave us and never will He forsake us as Heb. 13 puts it. But we also have the confidence of being protected by our Savior, Jesus. We are firmly placed into the hands of Jesus by the Father for protection as John 10 states. The Father puts His sheep under the care of the Good Shepherd for our wellbeing. Nothing and no one can snatch us out of Father's care or the Son's oversight. And since we have Jesus as the Lord of the church, we know that the gates of hell will not prevail against us. In fact, as we read in Rom. 8 – all things must work together for our good- for the sake of the salvation of God's elect- and for the glory of the name of God. So we can be comforted by this truth- any trials or hardships that come are firmly in God's control. They have a good purpose. God will not allow anyone to touch His child without His consent- He will not send adversity for no reason. As Psalm 34 states, the righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all. We only need consider the life of both Job and Joseph- God was with His children through the trial- these being sent from His loving hand- for the eternal good of His little ones. So God will protect us from the enemy- and He will turn to our good any adversity He sends upon us in this life. As we say in prayer- deliver us from the Evil One. God will protect from evil- or work that trial for good. Again, this is an article of faith. We need to believe this- to trust it to be true! Even when we do not see it- we believe it! God is my loving Father- and He is working good in my life and He is working even through these trials. As II Thes. 3 puts it, the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

But not only does our Father protect, He also provides. This is what we learned from our text in Mt. 6. God provides for all His creatures- will He not also provide for His children? Why worry about what you will need for your bodies- what you will eat or what you will wear? Your Loving Father knows what you need and He will provide each day according to that need. As long as you are called to live upon this earth, your daily needs will be met by the Father of lights and the fountain of every good and perfect gift. Jesus builds upon this concept in Mt. 7:9. Here Jesus argues from the lessor to the greater. Which earthly father will not provide for their child? If you had a child who was seriously hungry in your home, every normal father would open the cabinet and meet the needs of this child. No earthly father gives their child a stone when there is bread available. So if earthly, fallen, sinful father have love and compassion on their children, what do you think our heavenly, perfect and infinite Father would do? Would He do less than earthly fathers? Surely not! As Mt. 7:22 concludes, if you then, who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him? Surely God will provide for us- our Father takes care of His children! So we know that God will provide- He is Jehovah Jirah- the LORD will provide! He will give us what we need for our bodies- but also our souls. In fact, because He has already provided the most precious gift- since He has already given us Jesus to be our heavenly bread- will He not also provide for our bodies? If He sent His Son to give food to our souls- won't He send bread for our bodies?

As you can see, confessing that God is your heavenly Father is an act of faith- it is a confession made by a child who trusts in and depends upon their Father. In Him we can trust completely- so that we have no doubt. LD 9 then concludes with a wonderful phrase that gives us the motivation- why can we trust in God completely? Why should you trust in the God the Father? Because He is able to protect and provide for you being almighty God. And the desires to do this because He is your loving Father! So our Father has both the desire and the ability to take care of us in a special way. When we confess God to be our Heavenly Father we are saying with a heart of faith- God made me and will take care of me! Jesus Christ makes us children of our Heavenly Father for our eternal comfort! So call upon your heavenly Father, look to His hand to protect and provide!