

Lecture 5- Creation**Prayer**

God has set all things for our good and for our salvation. In our very selves we feel His power and grace, His great unnumbered benefits freely conferred upon us. All praise and thanks be unto God. What else can we then do but stir ourselves to trust, invoke, to praise and love Him? For all God's handiwork is made for man. Even in the six days, He shows a Father's care for His child as yet unborn. All praise and thanks be unto God. Away, ingratitude, forgetfulness of Him, away with craven fear He may fail us in our need, for He has seen to it that nothing will be lacking to our welfare. All praise and thanks be unto God. Whenever we call on God, Creator of heaven and earth, we must be mindful that all He gives us is in His hand to give. Our every trust and hope we hang on Him alone. All praise and thanks be unto God. Whatever we desire, we are to ask of Him, and thankfully receive each benefit that falls to us. Let us then strive to love and serve Him with all our hearts. All praise and thanks be unto God. Amen.

Creation

- I. Place and Significance of the Doctrine of Creation
 - A. Doctrine of God to creation and providence
 - B. Creation not "the chief evidence for faith" but "the first evidence in the order of nature" (1, 14, 20)
- II. Characteristics of Calvin's Treatment of the Doctrine
 - A. Practical
 1. Object not to answer all our questions, but to strengthen our faith in God (1, 14, 1)
 2. Story of creation not given in scientific language
 3. Why six days?
 - B. Personal, fatherly (1, 14, 2)
- III. Angels and Demons (Scriptural, practical, non-speculative [Dionysius - "that foolish wisdom" (1, 14, 4)])
 - A. Angels
 1. Real spirits characterized by "perception and intelligence" (1, 14, 9)
 2. Servants of God ("the hands of God" [1, 14, 12])
 3. Servants of people (1, 14, 11)
 - B. Demons
 1. Evil of the demons not of God but of themselves (1, 14, 11)
 2. Devils stand under God's power (1, 14, 17)
- IV. Creation of the World
 - A. Basic orientation: against dualism and pantheism
 - B. Creation
 1. Literal six days
 2. "Doctrine of evolution" (Warfield, p. 305)
 - a. Murray vs. Warfield on Calvin
- V. Man
 - A. Knowledge of ourselves: 1) as created [1, 15], and 2) as fallen [2,1-5]
 - B. Practical emphasis - produces gratitude and humility (1, 15, 1)
 - C. Doctrine
 1. Man created body and soul
 - a. Body the "prison house" of the soul (1, 15, 2 & 3)
 - b. Soul "an immortal yet created essence" (1, 15, 2)

- 1) Immortal - arguments from man's many pre-eminent gifts and from the Bible
- 2) Created - each soul a direct creation of God (Calvin rejects traducianism) out of nothing (1, 15, 5)
2. Man created in the image of God
 - a. Found primarily in man's soul but "sparks" even in man's body
 - b. Consists of "integrity" (1, 15, 3) - "the light of the mind the uprightness of heart the soundness of all the parts" (1, 15, 4) or true knowledge, righteousness, and holiness (1, 15, 4)
3. Man created with two faculties: understanding and will

For Further Study

Murray, John. "Calvin's Doctrine of Creation." *Westminster Theological Journal* 17 (1954): 21-43.

A careful study that disputes Warfield's claim that Calvin held to a "doctrine of evolution."
Warfield, B. B. "Calvin's Doctrine of Creation"