

God is great

ODCC 08/03/09 (God is great.doc)

Text: Colossians 1:15-20

Introduction

1. I am preaching on this subject today because of a video I saw on YouTube a short while ago. I'll come back to that in a while.
 - a. *Illustration:* That's not a problem...*This* is a problem! (Adrianno's stomach size compared to mine.)
 - b. Everything is relative, isn't it? For example, you think you have problems – there's a whole heap of people with far worse problems than yours.
 - c. I have literally bumped into an elephant in the wild stood and looked up at it towering over me. Compared to me an elephant is huge. An adult male can weigh over 7,000 kg and stand is around 4 m tall. But an elephant is pretty small compared to a Gray Whale which weighs over 5 times what an adult African elephant weighs – 34,800 kg.
 - d. Okay, I'm small compared to an elephant but not to a mouse. There's different species of mice but the average lab mouse weighs 45 g. Then your average mouse is huge compared to one of the smallest living creatures with a heart – a wasp (with an unpronounceable name) which is only 0.14 mm long.

Big numbers & absurdities

1. By now you should guess that I'm talking about big and small living things. It used to be considered that the atom was the smallest known thing but then something smaller – the Quark. An now, science is discovering even smaller – Tso small that it is impossible to describe them and, they believe that even the smallest things they are discovering are huge in comparison to what might be the smallest thing in the universe.
 - a. The video that I watched on YouTube showed some pictures taken by the Hubble spacecraft saying that they the have looked the furthest so far that humanity has been able to see into the depths of space.
 - b. It went on to talk about BIG NUMBERS such as distances, how many galaxies there could be in space and how many solar systems in each galaxy.
 - c. For example they believe that the universe is 78 billion light years across. When measuring a light year as distance it is approx. 9.5 000 billion km (i.e. 9.5 million million km). If you multiply that by 78 billion you get an approximate distance of the universe from one side to the other. **My calculator wouldn't let me do the calculation.**
 - d. It's just an estimation but they believe there are over 500 000 million galaxies and each galaxy has tens of millions of stars and solar systems.
 - e. If you feel small next to an elephant you'd have to feel small compared to the size of the universe. In comparison you and I are smaller than the smallest known thing to man.
2. The presenter of this short documentary said: *"To think that earth may be the only planet that harbours life is absurd!"*
 - a. And he said when showing 3,000 newly discovered galaxies and looking at pictures of one galaxy in particular, *"Each of those pinpoints of light represents a star, and each star has the possibility of a solar system with planets, and each planet has the possibility of a civilisation."*
 - b. I don't have time to expand on it today but the producers of this documentary are evolutionists. They don't believe that the universe is eternal but started at some point in time through a physical phenomenon. And then on planet earth there was a chemical phenomenon resulting in a spark of life which has evolved into this incredibly complex ecological environment in which we now live. **THAT'S PUTTING IT SIMPLY!**
 - c. The mathematical chances of our the universe, life and our world developing in the way they suggest are more mind-blowing that talking about the size of the universe and the number of galaxies and sizes of planets, etc. And then if it's not enough to talk about the mathematical probability of that happening once in the universe, they say *"it's absurd to think it hasn't happened more than once and that other civilisations don't exist elsewhere in the universe."*

The Bible says

1. What does the Bible say? Gen 1 – In the beginning...at some point in time – no, at the beginning of time
 - a. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth – that is, God created the whole universe and then it zeros in on the earth and says, “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters”
 - b. And then it goes on to declare the order in which God created the things of our world including man and He breathed into man the breathe of life.
2. Why is it that God is invisible and unseen?
 - a. It wasn't always so. Genesis says that God would come daily and talk to Adam & Eve in the garden until they sinned. The Bible says “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.” (Is 59:2)
 - b. Of course, God may be discovered. Listen to what the apostle Paul says, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honour Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.*” (Rom 1:18-22).
 - c. So creation itself gives an internal evidence to each one of us that there is a God. Man believes he is becoming so clever with his science and that our past belief of God was simply a way of explaining the world and the universe because we did not have the wherewithal to explore.
 - d. **What is man's wisdom** that replaces creation with evolution and God with science. Paul says it's the futile thinking of fools.
3. God can be discovered through creation but not known. However God can be discovered through Jesus Christ and become known.
 - a. John writing in his gospel says: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*” (Jn 1:1-3, 14)
 - b. It is often said that faith is the key that unlocks heaven. And that is true. Hebrews 11 is the faith chapter. It says there, “*By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*” (v 3)
 - c. And by faith we believe – as Ephesians 2:8 says, “*For by grace you have been saved through faith*”
4. If you think you're big take a look at the universe. You cannot even comprehend how big the universe is. But if you think the universe is big, take a look at God.
 - a. When I saw that little movie on YouTube, not a split-second of doubt entered my mind. Immediately I said, “Wow, how big is our God who made the universe, sustains the universe and fills the universe.”

Conclusion

1. If the Bible says that creation confirms within each one of us the existence of God, it must be so.
2. You cannot appreciate the smallness or the bigness of the things of the universe which are small in comparison to God.
 - a. You cannot come to God as you come to a man – in the smallness of your mind you cannot reason with God or know God.
 - b. But the creator of the heavens and earth became a man so that we could get to know a GREAT GOD.
 - c. My question to you today is this: Have you met God and have you developed a personal relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus.