



January 20, 2019

GOD'S STORY

YOUR STORY, OUR STORY

Reflections

One of the greatest challenges to the validity of the Christian faith is the legitimate question of why Christianity should be privileged over any other truth claim. With so many religions and philosophies of life, how could any one claim to be true? This is an ancient and important question still asked by conscientious people today. One of the most compelling responses I've found is an allegory from a little known 8th century writer, Theodore Abu Qurrah (ca. 740 – ca. 820):

A certain king had a son who had never seen him. In a foreign land the son fell ill and sent to his father for medical advice. Several messages came, one from the father, the others from the latter's enemies. The son, assisted by the advice of a doctor, scrutinized each message from the point of view of what it indicated about the author, the understanding of the disease, and the reasonableness of the proposed remedy, and he accepted the prescription that best satisfied all three criteria.

Applying the allegory to the choice of a religion, Abu Qurrah tries to show that Christianity presents the most plausible idea of God, exhibits the fullest understanding of humanity's actual religious needs, and prescribes what appear to be the most appropriate remedies. Thus, applying this allegory to modern-day, we might respond to the question, "Why should I believe in Christianity when there are so many other religions?" with the assertion that Christianity brings the greatest healing and flourishing to humanity and that Christianity's God, of all the major religions, understands most personally the human condition and need.

Sermon

In the Beginning, God
Rankin Wilbourne

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Scripture

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18, 24-31

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Events & News

2019 Global Missions Info Session, January 20 or January 27

In 2019, PCC aims to send more than 100 mission team members to Central Asia. If you've considered participating, even for a second, or if you're curious about finding out how to support the global church, come to an info session to learn about trips, fundraising, etc.

Jan 20, 11 AM, SAMOHI, Room H120

Jan 27, 11 AM, SAMOHI, Room H122

Jan 27, 6:30 PM, St. John's, Gold Room

Financial Peace University, January 27

Whether you're a student, professional, single parent, newlywed, or family of four, learn to develop budgeting skills, financial discipline, an emergency fund, and the peace that comes from having a godly financial plan. This is a 9-week course that runs through March 24.

View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, PacificCrossroads.org/Events, or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' tent.

Ministry Resources

Congregational Care

Our congregational care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

Celebrate Recovery

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery.