

## THE SOUL OF A CREATOR

Mary Mayko



**Psalm 119:73-74 CEV “You created me and put me together. Make me wise enough to learn what you have commanded. Your worshippers will see me, and they will be glad that I trust your word.”**

**Psalm 100:3 CEV “You know the LORD is God! He created us, and we belong to him; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”**

Clearly, God is the Master Creator. We are made in His image. He desires we become more and more like Him! He has placed within people many gifts and talents that we are to develop and use for His glory and the benefit of others. When I read of all the gifted people who were involved in the construction of that fantastic Tabernacle, there is a sense of appreciation for those who were willing and able to help put this meeting place with God together!

Exodus 25-40 shares the details of the pattern for the tabernacle as Moses received it directly from God! Each item was to be made exactly as God had instructed by skilled workmen. Exo.31:1-11 describes some of the workers as “filled with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship to make artistic designs”.

Exo.35:10 gave this command, ‘Let every skillful man among come, and make all that the LORD has commanded.’ The women were also involved. Verses 25-26 “All the skilled women spun with their hands” “All the women whose heart stirred with skill spun”.

When all was completed as stated in Exodus 40:33 “Thus Moses finished the work.” Verse 34 “Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.”

How pleased the Soul of our Creator LORD was when His people worked with their God given gifts and talents to do all He had instructed them to do! When an artist in any field is inspired to use his abilities and sees a beautifully finished piece, his soul soars with delight! If others see and appreciate the work, that is a blessing!

There are many emotions connected with anyone who has created something special. Artwork of many kinds has brought much joy to those who view it, buy it, and use it in various ways. Those who sculpt, paint, draw, weave, carve or whatever their skills has enabled them to create, have poured their heart and soul into this special item. Sometimes one slip of a knife, a dropped stitch, or wrong stroke of a brush makes the difference between a piece that is a beautiful and useful accomplishment, or a spoiled worthless item.

Creativity is a gift from God and a reflection not only of a person's talent, but also one's personality. There are usually strong feelings tied to each item they make or gift they use. Inspiration is needed to get you started and a sense of accomplishment when you finish. We want to feel good about our work.

We are pleased when others admire it and saddened if it is criticized. For an artist to separate themselves from their production and to look at it so they can evaluate their work honestly, requires great maturity. If it is a really good piece, delight in it. If it is flawed or less than you expected of it, disappointment can fill your soul. But just as the potter in Jeremiah did not give up when his piece was not right, we must not let discouragement prevent us from trying again! When the potter used the same material and reshaped it, it became a beautiful useful vessel!

Jeremiah 18:1-6 verses **3-4** **“Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter, he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make”**

The potter was upset with the vessel he worked on. It did not meet his expectations. He crushed it with his hand while it was still flexible, and remade it to his satisfaction. When we become flawed in some way, God does not reject us! He places us in His hands, and as He works on us, sometimes the pain of the change makes us want to run away from Him! Thankfully He will not allow us to go, but may let us squirm a bit before He continues His work!

Psalm 119:73 ASB “Thy hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Thy Commandments.”

Isn't it interesting when we read over and over in the Book of Genesis, that when God made something, He paused long enough to look at it and say it was good! He made us, and when we walk in His ways, He is pleased to say to us “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

Psalm 139:14 ASB “I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well.”

God is the ultimate Artist!

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## “WARNING! DANGER AHEAD!”

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Proverbs 14:12 ASB “There is a way *which seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Matthew 7:13-14 ASB “Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”

Deuteronomy 30:19b ASB “So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendents.”

Nearly every day in some way, we see warnings signs all around us. In our medicine cabinets are pills with warnings to take them only as prescribed by your physician. Cleaning products caution about the chemicals getting into your eyes or on your skin. Food packages have instructions for proper care, or you may be poisoned by spoiled foods or even die! If you ignore these warnings, you may pay a severe penalty!

TV ads will promote certain products on one hand, and in the same commercial, give warnings that sound so dreadful, I often wonder why anyone would be brave enough to even try them! Roads signs are clearly marked as a safety precaution. When you are in a dangerous area, signs will instruct you. Sometimes a storm will wash out a bridge, and road blocks are placed there to keep people from rushing to their death!

Speaking of storm and bridges, multitudes are killed every year this way. I sometimes wonder how many plunged suddenly to their death in spite of warnings or without immediate warning! A quick look at bridge disasters in the USA tells us a frightening story! Perhaps someone had tried to stop vehicles from plunging into treacherous waters below, but the drivers ignored the warning until it was too late!

**This summary of bridge tragedies is far from complete, but reveals a very sad story.**

1967: The Silver Bridge over the Ohio River collapsed and killed 46 people in Point Pleasant W. VA.

1980: The famous Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay FL was hit by a ship during a storm, killing 36 people!

1983 & 1987: Bridges over the Mianus River collapsed, the one in Conn. Killed 3 people, the one in NY over the same river, killed 10.

1989: An earthquake in CA caused a viaduct to fall, killing 42 people.

1993: The RR Bridge in Alabama, CSXT, collapsed, plunging the Amtrak Sunset Limited train that was carrying 220 into the waters below. 47 die, and 103 people were injured.

2002: Webber Falls Ark. A barge hit the bridge, 14 people die as the bridge collapses.

2008: I-35 Bridge in Minn. Floods take out bridge, 13 die, 140 injured.

Why am I giving this information to you? It is because none of us know just when our life may end. Some people are ill and the Dr. will say you have 3 months to live, but some times people live much longer, while others die sooner. How can we be sure we have chosen the right road, and are assured we will go to heaven to be with our LORD, if we should die today?

In Matthew, Jesus gave many warnings and teachings about the way of eternal life or failure to heed His messages. The Old Testament tells about Noah who built an ark at God's command. When God said the earth would be destroyed by flood, Noah believed Him! Heb.11:7a **"By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household."**

Most church people know the story. Noah was building the ark for 100 years, while people mocked and scornfully laughed at a man building a ship on dry land! After God sealed the door shut to the ark, the rains came, the flood waters rose, people cried out, but much too late!

Today we see so many of the signs Jesus warned the people about in Matt. 24. The disciples had asked what and when the sign of His Coming and the end times would be. The answers He gave are quite lengthy, for we are not to be ignorant nor ignore the age in which we live. Verse 13 **"Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."** The time frame is in God's hands, not when some one has calculated it to be!

Jesus gave a parable about what foundation you build on. Matt. 7:24-27 Tells us about those who built on sand. In times of trouble or disasters, they fall, because they have not trusted in the True Foundation, Christ Jesus. Verse 24 **"Therefore, every one who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock."**

**Bridges or Beliefs**, if not build on a solid foundation, are subject to collapse and failure! Proverbs 14:12 **"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."**

Proverbs 2:7-8 **"He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice, and He preserves the way of His godly ones."**

**How's your foundation?**

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**Rev. J. Kehl Golding**

“Lord, please help me!”

Have you ever uttered that cry? I’m sure you have, we all have, and I’m convinced, the older we get the more we cry out to Him for help!

Recently, I was explaining my need to find a misplaced important paper to a person. I said: “I finally cried out to the Lord in prayer, asking His help to find it. In less than an hour He took me to where I had put it!” Her response was: “How could you bother Him with such a small thing, when He has so much to do?”

I just smiled, my misplaced paper *was* a very small thing compared to planet earth and all her problems. *But*, He is a personal Savior, *my* personal Savior therefore, because I was in great need of that paper, it became important to Him. *Why?* Because I am so important to Him~ He *died for me!*

The Lord encourages us to seek Him in this manner, that is, in every day problems. He shows us how interested He is in His people. He recorded an interesting account in II Kings chapter 6. There we find Elisha the prophet with the students from his school~ “*The school of the prophets*” who were building a larger facility. While cutting trees, one student lost his axe head in the water! He cried out in great concern: “Alas, Master! For it was borrowed!”

This was a huge problem for the young man. There was no *Home Depot*” or “*Wal-Mart*” to get another one. This axe head was hand made, taken a great deal of time and skill to fashion it. Elisha asked: “Where did it fall?” The young man showed him. Elisha cut a stick and cast it in the water at that place and, “the iron did swim!!”

The wooden stick was a type of Calvary~ solving the problem. You find this type in several places in the Old Testament. In Genesis when Jacob realized Laban, his father-in-law was angry with him, and he needed to get Rachel and Leah, plus all their children away from him, he didn’t have a clue where to go. *But*, we read in 31:3 “And the Lord said unto Jacob, return unto the land of your fathers and to thy kindred, and I will be with thee.”

So he left without any road maps or systems in place, just the Lord! Have you ever been in a strange area, no service station to ask directions of? Not a *clue*, which way to turn? I’ve been there so many times when traveling. That’s the time to stop and pray, quietly ask God to help you!

Have *you* ever been alone and frightened, knowing you needed God's protection? I was traveling from Canada, south on I-81, somewhere in New York, one or two o'clock in the morning. I had taught most of the Day and preached the mid-week service that night, but needed to be in Philadelphia by 9:00 am. I was alone and very tired. I knew I was sleepy and needed to stop. I also knew there was a truck "*pull over*" ahead of me and I needed to get there!

My little toy poodle was asleep on the front seat. But, as her custom, the minute the car stopped she would wake up and come over on me, and stand guard at the window. When I pulled into the truck area, it was very dark, no lights at all. I didn't like that but I was *so sleepy!* Making sure all the windows were shut and doors locked, I settled down to sleep.

My poodle came over to the window and started growling and *not* barking, just a deep guttural threatening growl. I had *never heard her do that before!* I was now wide awake and realized a great sense of evil was all about me, all over me, *like I had never ever experienced in my life!!* I started the car and got out of there as quick as I could! I never saw anyone, nor were there any other vehicles in the area. *But*, when I pulled back on the highway, she settled down on the seat, the blanket of evil lifted and all was normal again. We drove many miles to the next truck "*pull over.*" She stood guard and I slept for about two hours.

I've often wondered what terrible evil God spared us of that night! *But, isn't that just what He promised He would do?* "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Him-self strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." 2 Chronicles 16:9

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and He delivereth them. O Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. O fear the Lord, ye His saints; for there is no want [lack] to them that fear Him."  
Psalm 34:7-9

In these troublesome uncertain times, we wonder many times in a day, what shall I do? What is the right move to make? Jesus promised us, as we see the signs of His Coming drawing closer and closer, He would be with us. He said we might even endure persecution. So in Luke 21:14-15 we read: "Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate [plan] before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."

"*Lord~ please help me!!*" He is our Heavenly Father, our Advocate, our Big Brother, our Best Friend, our LORD and our Savior! We can ask, and depend on Him!

*But, what if you haven't asked Him to forgive your sins? Acknowledged your need for a Savior? Invited Him into your heart? What if?* **"For God giveth to a man that is good IN HIS SIGHT, wisdom, and knowledge and joy: BUT TO THE SINNER HE giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that He may give to him that is good before God."** Ecclesiastes 2:26 "*Lord ~ help us!*"

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