



# The Neighborly Note

Courtesy of your neighbor, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

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## Creation: The Witness of God



*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun which is a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. (Psalm 19:1-6)*

Have you every gazed into the beauty and expanse of the night sky? What did you think as you looked at the stars? What did you feel as you experienced the vast expanse of the Universe?

I remember going on a hayride one chilly fall evening and looking up into the heavens. At that moment, I knew that God exist, felt in awe of his handwork, and wandered what He is really like. The beautiful Universe above me had witnessed to my very being that God does exist, is highly creative, and is all powerful. Such an experience is not unique to me. Throughout time, everyone with eyes to see has been able to experience this straightforward evidence of the glorious Creator of the Universe.

King David wrote about creation's witness to God in Psalms 19:1-6. The heavens declare the glory of God. The heavenly sky proclaims his handiwork. Everyone can see God's glory and handiwork in the spectacular and glorious sunrise, the transcendent beauty of the sunsets, the majestic pillars of fluffy clouds, the enchanting phases of the moon, the brightness and warmth of the sun, and the orderly movements of the planets and constellations.

Scientists know that during any chemical or physical change which may occur with any substance, matter can neither be created nor destroyed in an isolated system but can only be converted from one form to another. This is a natural law known as the conservation of mass. So, if we take a pound of gold and do various experiment on it, we will be unable to produce more than one pound of gold. Therefore, a material explanation for the cause of the Universe is impossible. The Cause of the Universe could not have been material.

Also, scientists know that every material effect must have an adequate cause that existed before the effect. This is the natural law of cause and effect. There are three important aspects of this law.

First, material effects without adequate causes do not exist. Paintings do not paint themselves. When we see a painting, we know there is a painter. Houses do not build themselves. When we see a house, we understand there was a builder. There must always be a cause for any material effect.

Second, causes never occur after the effect. A painting can't simply come into existence before the painter arrives with the paints and brushes. A house cannot assemble itself and then the builder shows up with the labor and

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**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**  
*We are your neighbor!*



2030 Wisconsin Street  
Eugene, OR 97402

### Current Schedule of Services

Sunday School ..... 10:00 am

Worship Service ..... 11:00 am

**Everyone welcome to attend!**



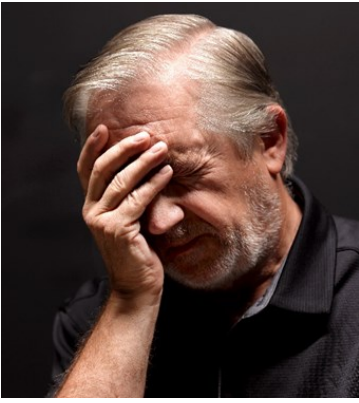
**Clint Perdue, Pastor**  
**541-285-7792**

**Website:**  
newhopembceugene.com

**Facebook:**  
Facebook.com/NewHopeMBCEugene

**Email:**  
newhopembceugene@gmail.com

## Jesus Knows You!



*O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou comprehendest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. (Psalm 139:1-6, KJV)*

Have you ever felt that no one really knows you? That no one really understands the struggles you face, the load you are carrying, or the pain you feel? That no one really gets who you are? That you are alone, without a friend to depend upon? That you must hide your failures and sins so others cannot see them?

The reality is, the God of heaven knows you completely. He knows everything about you, both positive and negative, both good and bad. God knows every desire of your heart. He knows when you get up in the morning and when you go to bed at night. He knows every thought you have during the day. He knows every word you will speak, even before you say it. David, the King of Israel, recognized this reality when he wrote the word of Psalm 139:1-6.

When Jesus and Nathanael first meet, Jesus said to him, *"Behold and Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" (John 1:47)* Jesus knew that Nathanael was a man of integrity, uprightness,

without any hypocrisy or deceit. This surprised Nathanael as he had never meet Jesus before. Therefore, Nathanael asked the logical question, *"Whence knowest thou me?"* Jesus answered him, *"Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee."* (John 1:48) What Nathanael was doing under the fig tree is unknown. But whatever it was, Jesus knew even before meeting Nathanael. Only God, who knows all things, could have known this! Jesus knew Nathanael and he knows you!

Prior to meeting Jesus at Jacob's well, the woman of Samaria had never seen Jesus. Yet, Jesus knew her lifestyle and sins. Jesus said to her, *"For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband."* (John 4:18) How did Jesus know this? He knew because he knew her, even before meeting her. The Samaritan woman herself told her friends, *"Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"* (John 4:29). Only God, who knows all things, could have known this! God knew the Samaritan woman and he knows you!

Even if you do not know God, he knows you completely. He knows your strengths and weaknesses, your good deeds and your sins. He really understands the struggles you face, the load you are carrying, or the pain you feel. He gets who you really are. It is impossible to hid anything from him.

God wants you to know Him. He wants to forgive your sins, make you a part of His family, encourage and strengthen you each day, lead you where you need to go, and be your King and friend. How is that possible? Through repentance of sins toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Simply believe in and receive Jesus Christ. (John 1:12)

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. (John 1:12, KJV)*

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## Creation: The Witness of God

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materials. The cause must always proceed the effect.

Third, the effect can never be greater than the cause. The roof did not blow off the house because of a gentle breeze. The river did not overflow its banks from someone swimming in it. The window did not break because a leave hit it. Why? Because these are not adequate causes. There must be an adequate cause for every material effect.

Young children are naturally inquisitive about the law of cause and effect. Picture a young child asking: "Mommy, where do chickens come from?" His mother says that they come from eggs. Then the child asks where the eggs come from, and his mother explains that they come from chicken. Eventually the child wants to know how the first chicken got here. He can perceive very well that the chicken must have had a cause, and he wants to know what that cause was.

The very existence of the wonderous and vast Creation we live in demands a Creator of eternal power and divine attributes. The evidence is more than sufficient to prove that the material Universe must have a non-material cause, the God of Heaven.

Because every material effect must have an adequate cause, and since only God could have caused the Universe, then the obvious question is: "What caused God?" Doesn't the law of cause and effect also apply to God? The answer is simple, the law of cause and effect applies to the **material** world.

The law of cause and effect is only applicable to the Creation, which is made of matter. God is an eternal spirit (John 4:24). No scientific experiment can be done on God. He is not subject to the natural laws of Creation.

The Creation not only reveals God's glory and handwork, but also His eternal power and divine nature (Romans 1:20). The greatness of the Universe demonstrates the all-powerful nature of God. He is not a weak person, but rather the all-powerful Creator. The beauty, harmony and beneficial nature of the Universe displays for all to see the very divine nature of God.

Does God exist? Yes. How can we know for sure? Look around. The Creation itself testified to God's handwork, glory, eternal power, and divine nature. The witness of Creation leaves all people defenseless, without excuse. God exist and all are responsible to learn of Him.

# Unashamed



Hello. I am Keith; a scientist, husband, father, friend, preacher, coffee lover and a generally normal guy. I am a believer in Jesus Christ. I am not perfect or sinless. I have faults. I have not always lived as I should. But, despite my flaws, faults and failures, I am forgiven and loved by the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? All because of God's amazing grace.

As a young man in my late teens, I realized that I had broken God's law - sinned—and, consequently, was separated from God. I knew that without Christ, I would face an eternity in hell. One night, alone in my bedroom, I acknowledged my sins and shortcomings to the Lord and ask Him to forgive me and save me through His blood shed on the cross. I did not experience thunder and lightning, cry uncontrollably, or jump around for joy. Rather, I experience simple peace of mind and soul, knowing that God had heard by sincere request and forgiven my sins.

Since then, I have failed Christ many times. Although still saved, I had to seek the Lord's forgiveness for the sins that had so easily creep into my life. Each time, the Lord forgave me and restored me to fellowship with Him. I stand amazed at how forgiving, gracious and merciful the King of Kings is.

Since meeting Christ, He has never deserted me. He has never abandoned me to be overcome by the troubles of this world. He has always remained with me and sustained me through the good times and the bad time. I can't imagine my life without Christ in it.

Someday, I will depart this life; just as my grandparents, parents and friends. I will enter into the presence of Jesus Christ. I will praise Him for his holiness and supreme sacrifice and thank Him for his grace and love.

I am proud of my Lord and unashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

## Opportunity or Temptation?

An unclear area of common understanding is whether what appears to be opportunity really is, or if it is only temptation in opportunity's overalls. The clearer we see in this area, the better equipped we are to defend against the onslaught of evil deception. While many deliberately do evil while knowing better, there is altogether too much sin that is the direct result of ignorance.

God will judge all evil. Ignorance will not justify wrongdoing. Neither will anyone be able to convince God that the devil

made them do it. Jesus destroyed the works of the devil with his own death on the cross. The very worse that the devil can do is tempt you. He who succumbs to temptation must bear the full responsibility of it before God.

There are some characteristics that enable us to label temptation for with it is; sin in disguise. Careful consideration of these identifying marks may keep us from falling into the awful pit of temptation that has destroyed so many hopeful lives.

Opportunity never requires us to compromise principle. It never dishonors ourselves nor others. It never produces a guilty conscience. Opportunity is a gift from God that bears good fruit and generates rewards.

Temptation, on the other hand, is Satan's snare and has a hidden price. It requires a compromise of principle, a conflict of consciences, and a violation of values. It always results in dishonoring its victim and very often others. It hardens the heart against God and turns the hand against good. It produces bad fruit and penalizes rather than rewards the tempted.

Temptation is a broken rung in the ladder of success through which many enterprising hopefuls have fallen to their destruction. Satan considers the unwary fair game. Don't let him destroy you with fake opportunities.



Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil; neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted when is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. James 1:13-15.



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## Jolly Jokes

**A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones. Proverbs 17:22**



The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

