

Bethany Free Lutheran Church
451 34th St.
Astoria, OR 97103

The Truth about God and the Creation of Mankind

Looking back on past sermons, studies, and books I have used over the years, you will find some ideas and concepts that I gravitate to multiple times. One of those concepts I have taught, learned, and preached on often is the concept of truth. This has been something that God has been developing in me for years. This process was kindled into a flame largely due to the work of evangelist Ray Comfort. I began listening to and watching videos of Ray Comfort talking to people on the street in various videos he has produced over the years about Biblical truths. Comfort has a great way of presenting the truth of God's Law to people in an easy to understand fashion. As time has progressed his videos have become more polished and eye catching (many of his more recent videos can be seen for free by going to his website *Living Waters* if you are interested). *I first came across Ray Comfort about 20 years ago as I was looking through some videos on the internet about street level evangelism.*

One of the truths that Comfort often brings up when talking to people on the street is that we humans are unique and special. He would attack the lie that we are just some evolved space dust, or that we came from monkeys. The reason the creation of humanity by God is so important to properly understand is that if we are nothing more than random chance- we are not accountable to anyone, or anything. However, if we were created in the image of God, by God, we have purpose in life and are accountable to God in how we live.

The enemy is crafty. Satan knows that if humans can be fooled into believing there is no God, and that we are just the result of random chance there would be no higher power that holds us accountable with how we live. This is the lie many find comfort in. Ray Comfort quickly gets to the heart of the matter by helping people uncover their conscience as well as realizing the law of God is written on our hearts as Romans 2:15 tells us. Once this law that is written on our hearts is discovered, many become convicted of

their sins, and recognize that they have not lived their lives in such a way that pleases God.

The reality is that no one has pleased God by being good enough. This is the main point Comfort attempts to bring people into focus. Once this is completed, then Comfort offers words of comfort by explaining that Jesus has paid for our sins, and that by repenting and believing in Christ we are saved.

Is it a big deal for Christians to accept the truth that God created everything, rather than believing that everything evolved? You bet. Should Christians storm the gates of schools and colleges and demand that science books be burned and creation be taught? NO. What we must do though is instruct our children and grandchildren (as well as adults) that evolution is based on a faith system just like any other religion. Evolution is not scientific because it is not observable, it can't be replicated, and furthermore there is no solid evidence to support this theory. It is a theory that people cling to in order to live their lives without the fear of being held accountable to God on judgment day. Evolution provides temporary relief to those that reject belief in God, by assuaging the guilty conscience. Christians have a guilty conscience as well, but we have found the source of true release from our guilt. That release is found through the acceptance of knowing Jesus Christ as our Lord. It is found through trusting in the finished work of Jesus, not from a constant attempt to be better. And that truth is foundational to all of humanity!

Pastor Rich Carr

Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 A.M.

9:30 A.M. Sunday School

11:00 A.M. Worship Services

Live Stream

We live stream our 11:00 A.M. Sunday worship services on Subsplash. If you prefer Facebook we are still there. Sunday sermons are also posted the same day on our YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@bethanyfreelutheranastoria3012/featured>. You can find links to all of these on our website at www.bethanyfree.com



SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am-10:30am

Kindergarten- Adults

Learning God's Word



Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men's prayer breakfast is October 5th, 8:00 A.M. Cooking starts at around 7:15 A.M., if you would like to help. We would love to have more men join us.

Deacons & Trustees Meeting

They will meet here at church, Tuesday, October 8th, 5:30 P.M.

Bethany Sewing Ministry

The ladies of Bethany will meet October 3, 17, 24 & 31, Thursday mornings at 10 A.M., downstairs here at church. All sewing skills are welcome. A lunch is provided. We work on quilts that are mostly sent to AFLC Alaska Missions in Naknek, AK

Brown Bag Ministry

Every Tuesday, 1:30 P.M. We have our weekly Brown Bag Ministry which prepares brown bag lunches that are distributed in the community, we are always grateful for volunteers.

Opportunities to Serve

Check out the sign up sheets on the bulletin board for OCTOBER & NOVEMBER ! You can sign up to provide after church treats, flowers for the altar, greet and hand out bulletins before church or read the scriptures during church. If any of these sound like something you would like to do, sign up! Thank you!

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will meet October 3, 10, 17 & 24. They will be meeting directly after school at the Astoria Middle School this year on Thursdays. If you know someone interested please contact Pastor Rich.

WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation Bible Study will meet Thursday, October 10th, 11am at church. All Ladies are Welcome!

Women's Evening Bible Study

The women's Bible study and fellowship time is held on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the parsonage. It will be October 22nd, 7pm this month. All women are welcome.

New Members Class

If you are interested in learning more about what we at Bethany believe, or if you are interested in becoming a member, we invite you to attend our new member class. Dates will be in the Sunday bulletins. They will take place downstairs in the fellowship hall after church (12:30 P.M.). If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Pastor Rich.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 27th, at 12:30pm. We will be discussing the new Constitution and Bylaws being proposed. Draft copies of the proposed changes will be available in September for the Congregation to review prior to the October meeting so you can be ready to discuss.

District Conference

The District Conference is in Lake Stevens, Washington at Elim Lutheran Church October 4&5. He Comes in the Clouds is the theme, with guest speaker Steve Gregg. For more information you can call 425-344-1911 or visit the web page elimlutheran.net

Coming Up

Fall Festival/Thanksgiving

Nov. 17 following church service everyone is invited to dinner. We will be providing turkey dinner. Everyone is encouraged to bring salads and desserts.

New Multi-Purpose Building

Construction is underway! Our goal is to have walls/roof up by end of November so building can be "weather-tight" before winter sets in. We will be establishing a committee to work on kitchen layout; appliance, countertop, flooring, color selection, also a committee to work on second-floor apartment furnishings and colors.



Rendering of the new building