

Lesson 5 | October 3, 2021

Created for God's Purpose

Study Text

Psalms 19:1–14; Micah 6:8; Mark 12:28–31; Romans 1:18–25

Central Truth

God has a good purpose for every aspect of creation.

Key Verse: Romans 1:20

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse (KJV).

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students will know and understand what the Scripture says about how creation declares the glory of God.
- Students will appreciate how God's creation can motivate and inspire our worship of Him.
- Students will live as God's children, caretakers of His creation according to His purposes.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: When God created the universe and all that is in it, He did so with a purpose. Indeed, every part of God's creation has a purpose—to glorify Him and reveal His power. As human beings, we were created to glorify Him and to live in loving relationship with Him.

God has a purpose in everything. What is your purpose? God does not want you to worship Him your way.

Opening Activity—Talking Stars

Ask. Have you ever looked at the sky on a clear, starry night and thought about how creation “speaks to you”? What are some ways creation speaks to you, and what do you learn from pondering creation?

Say: Can you imagine David singing Psalm 19 as he sat on a hillside near Bethlehem caring for the flocks of sheep? Next time you are outdoors and away from artificial light on a starry night, take time to look up at God's handiwork. Think about how the stars are declaring His glory.

(Share your highlights from the following text.)

Scientists have, with the help of very sophisticated instruments, measured emanations from the stars. They have then converted those emanations to sounds, and consequently have observed that coming from the stars are non-random patterns of sound (which sounds like static to most). **Some scientists have conjectured that perhaps these are not just stellar noise from emanating light but a form of communication via a "language" we have yet to understand. As far-fetched as this sounds, the ancient psalmist said something similar. In Psalm 19:1–4 the psalmist says, in effect, that the stars in the heavens are declaring God's praise. They are speaking something unmistakable to the whole earth: God is the Creator and creation is His incredible artistry and handiwork.**

Part 1—Creation Declares God's Glory

The Sun and Stars Testify to God's Glory

Psalm 19:1–6

[Psa 19:1-6 KJV] 1 [[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.]] The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard. 4 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, 5 Which [is] as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, [and] rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 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.

[Psa 19:1-6 NASB20] 1 For the music director. A Psalm of David. The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, 5 Which is like a groom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices like a strong person to run his course. 6 Its rising is from one

end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Say: Few people have seen the glory of God as did Moses in Exodus 33:12–23. Few could even say their conversion experience included a bright light and a voice from heaven, as did Paul’s experience on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–19). But every person on earth has seen the glory of God as described by the psalmist in Psalm 19. Clearly, yet without words, the stars and the sun declare the glory of God. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

When you read the first four verses of Psalm 19, you find an unmistakable message: The heavens have something important to teach us (verse 2). **This makes sense because there is a Creator who made the heavens, and He uses creation to tell us things about himself. The fact is, God has communicated with us through His creation—a communication without words (verse 3)—but a communication nonetheless. He wants us to know something about His glory.**

Glory is a word used commonly of God in the Old Testament, and especially when describing something that uniquely belongs to, or is characteristic of, the God who is worthy of worship and honor. **Sometimes, as when speaking in connection with Israel’s tabernacle and temple, the word serves to indicate the holy presence of God himself (see Exodus 40:34–35; 1 Kings 8:11; 2 Chronicles 5:14). Where God reveals himself, His glory is present. Moses is a great example of someone who experienced the glory of God in a firsthand way, and it was an amazing scene (see Exodus 33:12–23).**

Psalm 19:1, then, is exceptionally powerful as we ponder its message: **“The heavens declare the glory of God” (KJV). Such a declaration is no small matter. From that perspective, we look to verses 5–6, which describe the most dominant star in the heavens: the sun. As the sun spreads its light and diffuses its heat across the heavens and the earth, it can serve as a shining spotlight as creation declares the glory of God.**

Discuss

? When you contemplate our universe, what does it tell you about God?

? How would you describe the glory of God? How have you experienced His glory in your own life?

Resource Packet Item 1: Believer or Skeptic?

Distribute the work sheet and read the quotes at the top of the page, then discuss the three questions as a class..

The Word Reveals God’s Will

Psalm 19:7–14

[Psa 19:7-14 KJV] 7 The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD [are] right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD [is] pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD [is] clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD [are] true [and] righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired [are they] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: [and] in keeping of them [there is] great reward. 12 Who can understand [his] errors? cleanse thou me from secret [faults]. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous [sins]; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

[Psa 19:7-14 NASB20] 7 The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold; Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, Your servant is warned by them; In keeping them there is great reward. 12 Who can discern [his] errors? Acquit me of hidden [faults.] 13 Also keep Your servant back from presumptuous [sins;] Let them not rule over me; Then I will be innocent, And I will be blameless of great wrongdoing. 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Say: We have focused on creation as a message to us about the glory of God, but now we move to a more specific revelation of God—His written Word. While nature can tell us about the grandeur and glory of God, the Scriptures instruct us in how to live for Him in this fallen world.

(Share your highlights from the following text.)

Beginning with 19:7, the psalmist began to speak of “the instructions of the Lord,” which contain His decrees, commandments, and laws (verse 7, NLT). **However, all these terms refer to God’s communication with humanity. Like the heavens, they tell us**

something about our Creator; they are a revelation of His glory by disclosing His will. The written revelation of God in His Law is of incalculable worth (verse 10) because it shows us the sin in our lives and all that is alien to the glory or perfection of God (see Romans 3:23). This highlights the difference between general and special revelation. **God's Law is an example of His special revelation, which tells us what God wills for our lives. The benefits of God's Word are multiple. It imparts wisdom to the simple (verse 7), joy to the heart (verse 8), reverence for the Lord, (verse 9), and it warns us about the perils of our own deliberate sin (verses 11–13). It fills our hearts with the knowledge of what is pleasing to the Lord (verse 14).**

Discuss

? As marvelous as the heavens are in all their grandeur, why does God place a greater value on humanity?

? What is the difference between God's revelation of himself in nature and in the Word? How have both impacted your life?

Part 2—Created to Love God Called to Walk Humbly With God

Micah 6:8

[Mic 6:8 KJV] 8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Say: God loves us and He desires a relationship with us. Our purpose, then, is to know, love, and serve Him. As He walked in the Garden of Eden and called out to Adam and Eve, as recorded in Genesis 3, we get the sense that He had visited them before in such a manner. He longs to have close relationship with us as well, but we also sometimes try to “hide” from Him, just as Adam and Eve did after they had sinned. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Micah 6:8, one of the most familiar passages in Scripture, speaks strongly into our understanding of why God made us. To fully appreciate the powerful message of this verse, we do well to read all of Micah 6:1–8. The Lord called out His rebellious people, Israel, in a kind of courtroom situation. Then, He called on creation itself to testify to the merits of His case (verses 1–2). Israel had chosen their rebellion despite the loving care, provision and protection of the Lord (verses 4–5). Now, confronted by their sin, how would they intend to approach God, to gain access to His mercy? **Would they stand solely upon the sacrifices and offerings prescribed in the Law (verses 6–7)? Would they even resort to the pagan route of human sacrifice to secure God's favor (see Jeremiah 19:5)? Note the wrongheadedness of the people in how they offered to rest so fully on sacrifice that they would take their sacrifices to the extreme—thousands of animals and rivers of oil**

[Mic 6:1-8 NASB20] 1 Hear now what the LORD is saying, "Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice. 2 "Listen, you mountains, to the indictment by the LORD, And you enduring foundations of the earth, Because the LORD has a case against His people; And He will dispute with Israel. 3 "My people, what have I done to you, And how have I wearied you? Answer Me. 4 "Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of slavery, And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5 "My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab planned And what Balaam son of Beor answered him, [And what happened] from Shittim to Gilgal, So that you might know the righteous acts of the LORD." 6 With what shall I come to the LORD [And] bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves? 7 Does the LORD take pleasure in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give [Him] my firstborn [for] my wrongdoings, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has told you, mortal one, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

[Jer 19:5 KJV] 5 They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire [for] burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake [it], neither came [it] into my mind:

But all of their offerings were misguided. For the Lord had already shown them His desire for them. It was found in His Law: They were to act with justice toward others. They were to love the covenant commands and promises of God's Law (**note that the word translated "mercy" in verse 8 [KJV] is the word *chesed* that we have mentioned in earlier lessons**). **And they were to walk through life in humble submission to God. The people had mistakenly and foolishly assumed that God is pleased with humanity based merely upon ritual performance of the Law: Levitical sacrifices and offerings. But that was clearly not the case, as the Law itself had instructed them. What the Lord wants from humanity is to enter a relationship whereby we desire to please Him by obeying His righteous commands, rejecting the unholiness of sin, and having hearts that seek after Him (see Deuteronomy 6:4–9). This rests at the foundation of our purpose as His creation. He desires our obedience (and all that this entails) rather than mere ritual sacrifices (see also 1 Samuel 15:22; Proverbs 21:3; John 14:15).**

Discuss

? What moves parents to joy or sorrow when their children act in imitation of their parents' habitual behavior?

? Is it possible to imitate Jesus in our lives? How? (See Ephesians 5:1–2; Matthew 5:17–20, reading in context of Matthew 5–7).

Called To Love God Supremely

Mark 12:28–31

[Mar 12:28-31 KJV] 28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. 31 And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Say: When we consider God’s handiwork in creation, the written Word of God, and the love demonstrated by Christ through the cross, it seems so clear that we should respond with wholehearted love for and obedience to God. It is difficult to believe that anyone would turn away from such a powerful and loving God. Yet, every day, people reject Him and choose to go their own way. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

It sometimes seemed like the Pharisees set out to ask Jesus “gotcha” questions— the kind of questions where no matter how Jesus answered, they could accuse Him of violating the Law. So they challenged Him in ways such as asking Him to judge whether or not it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath or to exact the death penalty for a woman caught in adultery. These challengers sought to show Jesus in conflict with God’s laws. At other times they asked questions long debated among the rabbis and for which there was no consensus of opinion. One such question pertained to the most important commandment found in the Law. Recorded in Mark 12, a perceptive scribe asked this very question. Jesus answered by citing from the Torah itself, both from Deuteronomy and Leviticus. “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these” (verses 29–31, NLT).

Jesus’ citation began with Deuteronomy 6:4–5, identifying the most important commandment: to love God supremely above all and with every aspect of our being. Then Jesus also identified a close and inseparable second commandment (Cf. 1 John 4:20). It comes from Leviticus 19:18, “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord” (NLT). Note that the scribe recognized Jesus’ answer to be indeed the correct and only answer (see Mark 12:32–33).

Resource Packet Item 2: God Loves . . .

Distribute the puzzle sheet. If you want to complete it in class, set a timer for five minutes or so, and give a prize to the person who finds the most words in that length of

time, or to the person who finishes first. If time does not permit this as an in-class activity, have students take it home as a fun activity to do later.

Discuss

? What is the difference between “love” as God views it and the ways in which humans speak of love in our present world?

? Read Galatians 5:14, Romans 13:8–10, and James 2:8. How does the command to love others fulfill the Law?

Part 3—Created to Acknowledge and Worship God Our Innate Knowledge of Our Creator

Romans 1:18–20

[Rom 1:18-20 KJV] 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

[Rom 1:18-20 NASB20] 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible [attributes, that is,] His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Say: God has revealed himself to humanity throughout the ages—in creation, through His written Word, and through His Son, Jesus Christ. Although Paul’s primary duty was to proclaim the gospel of Christ, and lead and exhort the Church, he also pointed to the original revelation of God through creation. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

When we read passages like Psalm 19:1–14, we are reminded that humans were created to worship God; we can expect to see the Creator’s handprints in His creation as evidence of His majesty and awesome power. Indeed, God expects the whole earth to see His creation and to recognize His power and majesty

(Romans 1:18–21).

As our earlier lessons demonstrated, creation is itself a revelation of God. In Romans we find this truth repeated with one important addition: Every human being is accountable for that revelation. The apostle Paul stressed that in the preaching of the good news, people are made right with God (see verse 17). By way of contrast, “God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness” (verse 18, NLT).

While we readily recognize that the gospel explains that one attains the righteousness of God only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we might expect Paul to appeal to the Law as the revelation of sin or unrighteousness. However, Paul did not do that. Instead he turned our attention to creation, that very first revelation of God. **Humanity has an innate knowledge of God “because he has made it obvious to them”** (verse 19, NLT). **Moreover, the Creator has used visible creation to reveal His invisible attributes about himself. These are His eternal power and divine nature. As a result, people can observe these realities and therefore have no excuse for not recognizing—and consequently worshipping God** (verse 20).

Discuss

? What is the result of suppressing the truth about God? How do people do that?

? Why does Paul say humanity has “no excuse for not knowing God”?

We Are Accountable to God

Romans 1:21–25

[Rom 1:21-25 KJV] 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Say: By simply being able to recognize the reality, power, and glory of God through His creation, we become accountable to recognize and worship Him. If we choose to worship any part of creation rather than the Creator, we are engaging in idolatry. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

When we observe the awesome works that resulted in the created world, we must only conclude that this is the work of the eternal, all-powerful God. Thus we are accountable to Him for what He has made plain to us. It is always before us.

You might ask, “Since that is the case, why are there so many atheists who don’t even believe that God exists?” Paul went on to answer that question: **Sin has darkened their hearts from the light of truth (Romans 1:21). Every human being has a free will to choose to accept the revelation God gives them in creation or to reject that revelation. Rather than worship the Creator-God, one’s sinful nature draws them to reject the truth revealed in creation. The result is spiritually disastrous—a kind of idolatry, involving, not only a rejection of what God has revealed, but a perversion of it. With this comes a corruption of the instinctive human desire to respond to the spiritual intuition placed within us by the Creator (verses 22–23; see also Ecclesiastes 3:11). Instead, the person pushes against God.**

[Ecc 3:11 KJV] 11 He hath made every [thing] beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

In the place of truth, such a person will begin to think up foolish ideas about creation. Claiming to be wise, they become utter fools. They trade the truth about God for a lie, and thus worship and serve the things God created instead of the Creator himself (see Romans 1:21–25). Verses 24–25, then, describe a horrible downward spiral in the spiritual state of the unbeliever. In Greek, the term translated “lusts” makes reference to a forbidden desire that defies all logic. It is perhaps beyond human understanding to fully grasp what “gave them up” means in verse 24 (KJV), but it seems God is simply releasing them to suffer the horrible results of their stubborn rejection of Him. Such is a tragic spiritual picture.

Discuss

? A common definition of idolatry is placing anything in God’s rightful position (first place) in our lives. What would you give as a definition?

? Idolatry often involves perversion of the truth about God. Can you think of examples where this is true and represented?

Resource Packet Item 3: Exploring Idolatry

Distribute the work sheet and give students a few minutes to respond, either individually or in small groups. Then have several share their answers.

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: God has created us for His purpose, to reveal His glory. In Scripture He reminds us that we are His creation, even as Isaiah did in his generation, “This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer and Creator: ‘I am the Lord, who made all things. I alone stretched out the heavens. Who was with me when I made the earth?’ “ (Isaiah 44:24, NLT). Sadly, God was affirming this because of the spiritual corruption and idolatry of His people. Unfortunately, the sin of idolatry continues to afflict humanity today. Satan’s

temptation in the Garden promised knowledge and godlike wisdom, which people still desire today, “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil” (Genesis 3:5, NLT). Such temptation is still around in a multitude of forms and demonic strategies even for Christians. The apostle John, after five chapters of instruction on how to abide in Christ and maintain fellowship with Him, closed his first Epistle with this sober warning, “Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts” (1 John 5:21, NLT).

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Look for ways you can communicate the gospel in your culture.
- Help students think critically and biblically about how to identify truth and error in the world around them.
- Identify examples of how idolatry might tempt Christians today.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Love God With Your All.
Deuteronomy 6:4–9

[Deu 6:4-9 KJV] 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [is] one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Tuesday:

All Earth Called To Worship.
1 Chronicles 16:23–31

[1Ch 16:23-31 KJV] 23 Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation. 24 Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations. 25 For great [is] the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also [is] to be feared above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the people [are] idols: but the LORD made the heavens. 27 Glory and honour [are] in his presence; strength and gladness [are] in his place. 28 Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. 29 Give unto the LORD the glory [due] unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. 30 Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved. 31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let [men] say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

Wednesday:

All the Nations Worship.
Psalm 86:8–10

[Psa 86:8-10 KJV] 8 Among the gods [there is] none like unto thee, O Lord; neither [are there any works] like unto thy works. 9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. 10 For thou [art] great, and doest wondrous things: thou [art] God alone.

Thursday:

Called According to His Purpose.
Romans 8:28–30

[Rom 8:28-30 KJV] 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Friday:

Purposed for God's Glory.
Ephesians 1:11–14

[Eph 1:11-14 KJV] 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Saturday:

Called To Be Fruitful.
2 Peter 1:3–8

[2Pe 1:3-8 KJV] 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

