

# “In Him We Live, and Move, and Have Our Being”

By Chris Ulrich

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Okay, well, good to see; I appreciate the yelling to the Lord. I know that those of you that were watching the Cubs game last night, there was a big shout out outside Wrigley Field, inside Wrigley Field, and I think what we just did equated that. I would have to say, like, downtown forever. Oh, well, was anybody else watching the Cubs game last night? I know Abby and Todd are probably the biggest Cubs fans I know. Todd's still got a crazed look on his face. When I walked in this morning, I saw Abby, over there in the side classroom, and I said, “Congratulations!” “What? What did I do wrong?” and I was like, “No, no! Don't you know what I'm talking about?” and she was like, “Oh, yeah, yeah.” Jumping up and down, and everybody was going crazy, so, it was good to see, it was good to see.

I appreciate—I'm going to revisit a little bit last week. I know the ladies had an outing that they had done, about a week and a half ago. How many ladies went on that outing? Eight? Okay, good. Well, I know that, from what the three that came up last week shared, it really ministered to me. I know, Alma, she talked about God restored the joy in her life. I know that, Abby, she talked about God dealing with her about prayer. She spoke in a very frank, and a very matter-of-fact personal way, and I appreciate that. I mean, that's one thing about coming honest before God. I know Nancy, she talked about wondering, “What's my talent in God?” But, then she said, that Scripture in Ephesians where it said to walk in the Spirit, ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Ephesians 2:3, Galatians 5:16).

I'd like to ask Rob Severance if he could come up, and lead us in a word of prayer for the sermon this morning.

**Rob:** Lord, Jesus, God, I thank You for this day. I thank You for Your goodness, Your mercy, Your longsuffering towards all of us, Lord Jesus. Thank You, God, for blessing us, and breathing the breath of life into our lungs, the sun rising, Lord Jesus, and that You've granted us another day. I ask, God, that You would bless this message, I ask that Your Spirit would move, that Your Spirit would speak to all of us, Lord, meet our needs, meet us where we're at. I pray that You would do this in Jesus' name.

Thank you, Rob.

I know that there seems to be a lot more unbelief in God, more philosophy and superstition in America today, and it seems to be everywhere we go. We have what they call a conflict of interest in it, when it comes to who God is, or what God is, or even whether he exists or not. It's not God's fault, because God's not the author of confusion, that's just the way it is, and that's the way our society has become. Our theme for the month has been, “Jesus Christ, All in All.” More than anything, it's been our goal to strengthen, reinforce others, and, maybe even re-instill in those that don't really know where they stand at all, that God does exist, that we can find answers in the great God, Almighty, and, to impart that Jesus *is* a part of our lives, and that's not going to change, in every aspect of our lives. To borrow an oft-used phrase, we believe with every fiber of our being that Jesus is part of our decisions, what we say, what we do, where we live where we go, and where we don't go, the things that we don't say, the things that we keep ourselves from. There's no sugar-coating it. For those of us who believe Jesus is the answer, it's with our any if's, and's or but's about it. Our goal isn't to force our beliefs on other people, but we're not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, either, or to call ourselves Christians. To know that God is real, and has made a difference to us, personally. Now, our sermon title, today, is borrowed from this passage, it's, “In Him We Live, and Move, and Have Our Being.”

**Acts 17:22-29** *Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.*

“For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.” Things that are sought after, things that people spent their entire life accumulating.

There's going to be three points today; the first is actually after the title:

- In Him we live, and move and have our being
- Great is the mystery of godliness
- Appreciating God's creation/Knowing Him by the things that are made

## **1st Point – In Him We Live, and Move, and Have Our Being**

There's superstition, there's philosophy, there's fallacies, and just about everything else that is contrary to the Word of God that keeps us from embracing the Word of God; these aren't new things. This was written two thousand years ago, as most of us know. And, again, it's not about us going around trying to force ourselves, about how wrong the rest of the world is, about how wrong each individual is. But, it's about how, showing them that people can have a life that's right with God, and showing them how right God is. And, I remember a time in my life when spiritual darkness encompassed me, and I didn't know how to find the answer. I didn't know where to go, remember how great of a change it was and still is to find meaning and purpose. I really wasn't raised religiously, as many of you know. But, we have to remember that difference, and the changes that God made in our lives, or, if you're still searching, that there is an answer. Jesus is the answer, and I know I've heard people say “Well, what was the question,” or, “I wasn't even asking.” Well, it's not the answer for people who aren't seeking. This is about those who are seeking God. If people aren't seeking God, or spending their whole life overlooking that, or looking to find answers elsewhere, or thinking, “Well, I just don't care, whatsoever,” which is the case in a lot of ways, again, it's not a matter of looking at it like, well, this is for those of us who are seeking to have a knowledge of believing that our soul is eternal, and that there is going to be a judgment.

**Genesis 2:1-7** *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from*

*the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

You ever get really congested, to the point where you feel like you can't even breathe? Whether it's allergies, or a blocked sinus passage, or, being dunked under water like my brother used to do—I've shared a little bit about that. It's frustrating, it's scary, it's the kind of thing where you just don't know when you're going to get relief. But when that relief does come, when we finally get to the surface—I now that sometimes people get restrictions, or they have surgeries, or whatever the case might be, how refreshing that breath of life is. How rejoicing that can be when we feel that again; it's almost like we can taste it. And, it's something to thank God for, because it is a precious gift. It is something that is given by God. It's something to thank God and glorify God for. It's not to take lightly. The reason I asked the question was, because, sometimes, when it feels like we're at that point where we're struggling, or we just can't get comfortable, we don't know what to do; we don't know how to get relief; we don't know – I mean, maybe you pray to God, and it comes immediately, or whatever the case might be. It could be a cold, it could be a longer-term condition. I'm not making light of it, I'm just looking at it like, I know I felt, at that point, at times, and it's, I'd say, as far as, terrifying, because sometimes you feel like, "I'm going to fall asleep, and I'm not going to wake up." And it's a real experience. It's not something that we do take lightly, but, again, when that relief does come, there's nothing like it. It's like taking in that fresh air. You ever get up into a place where, maybe up in the mountains somewhere, where the air seems to be cleaner, or clearer, and, it's just—you just, breathe in as deeply as you can, just to fill your lungs, even though you know you've got to take another breath two seconds later.

## **2nd Point – Great Is the Mystery of Godliness**

I know we live in a world today of technology and immediate answers, whether it's ask Google, or whether it's Wikipedia, or whether it's going to YouTube. The days of encyclopedias and doing a lot of research seem to have been thrown out the window. Anybody remember when they used to walk around, door-to-door, selling encyclopedias? Anybody remember that recently? No. It's all on-line. You can go to Wikipedia and get an answer for this, or you can go to Google, and say, "What's this, Google?" Or, you can go to YouTube and find a video that you haven't seen in months. I mean, it's all at our fingertips now. But we still don't have all the answers. We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery. There's still a frontier, there's still unfamiliar territory, or as most of us call it, "The Great Unknown". Some used to refer to our state of Alaska as "The Last Frontier," and, maybe still do, but when the show "Star Trek" came along, then that's the final frontier. So, that took it to the next level, and, I guess now, space, as far out as we can go, but there's still things far beyond that. But, we're really not talking about outer space; we're really more talking about inner space. And, that's not the frontier we'll be talking about today, it is going to be that inner space.

I'm going to ask if everybody could turn with me to the Book of First Timothy three sixteen:

**1 Timothy 3:16** *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

There was a statement that our Bishop, Pastor Paine—who's in our headquarters down in Virginia Beach—made several years ago—probably twenty-five years ago, if my memory serves me correctly--and it's a simple statement, but, I would say that, "The older I get, and the more I know, the more I realize how much more I don't know." Now that doesn't mean we get dumber as we get older or that we have

absolutely no knowledge at all, or everything just starts to deteriorate; Hosea 4:6 even tells us that God said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” So, there is a requirement. There is something that we have to know. But, when we start to understand that there’s so much more out there, and there’s so much more within, we just realize how infinite God is. The Bible talks about, in the Book of Kings, it says, “The Heaven of Heaven of Heavens could not contain Thee, how much less this house that I build unto Thee?” (1 Kings 8:27) That was when David was talking about building a house to God, which is something Solomon ended up doing. But, God doesn’t dwell in buildings made with hands. God is a Spirit (John 4:24). I’m going to read; these are verses that I’m sure a lot of us have heard before.

**Luke 12:6-7** *Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

And, that’s what, I guess you’d call it the pecking order that God has. We have an understanding that God has a special anointing upon man on mankind. And, it’s not as though God looks at it like, “Oh, these are just worthless sparrows. But, it basically says, if one of them falls, it’s not forgotten before God. And, to know the number of the very hairs of your—even those that are bald, I know, I know, Malcolm—and, even if he did grow hair, he’s not going to know—none of know how many hairs are on our own heads. That’s another part of the mysterious, that’s another part of the unknown that we face.

I was talking with somebody recently, Bob Heirtzler, and I had just finished a really difficult task, like mowing the lawn, or something like that, and Bob said to me, “Well, what don’t you know how to do?” And I thought, “There’s a lot I don’t know how to do.” And, we got to talking, and I was rattling off the top of my head, I don’t know how to sign-language. Anybody here know how to sign language? Okay one person. I don’t know how to fly a plane. Does anybody know how to fly a plane? Todd! Okay. I said, too, I don’t know how to create a web-page. Now, this is something that I think is a little more common; anybody in this room ever create a web-page? A lot more hands go up; okay, okay. And, there’s an infinite number of things that we don’t know how to do, but it’s not a matter of focusing on what we don’t know how to do, but looking at it like, “Okay, what has God given us the ability to be able to do?”

I don’t know why Golden Retrievers like to chase tennis balls, and I have a quick story about why I say that. Now, my parents live on the East Coast, Western Massachusetts, and, they’ve got property. They’ve got a couple of acres in the back yard. They have a Golden Retriever, but, they have friends of the family who have a Golden Retriever as well, and that dog is named Sundance, which, I kind of like the name, but, they’ll dog-sit for this other dog occasionally. So, one day, when I was out there, this was, maybe, a year and a half ago, they were sitting this dog, and my dad said, “Come on, come, come out here; I gotta show you something.” So, he goes, “Come here.” So, he’s got a golf club, with a tennis ball. And he’s like, “Watch this,” and he just, like, hits the tennis ball, and, I mean, it doesn’t go as far as a regular golf ball, but, the dog, Sundance, goes running after it, grabs it, comes, and just drops it right there. I mean, he’s doing it again, and again, and again, so, I was like, “Yeah. This is, like, wow.” So, I started doing it-now, my parents’ dog is a little bit older, and she doesn’t want anything to do with that. But, I thought, “Why would this dog just keep chasing after this, time after—I mean, doesn’t the dog get bored?” It’s a God-instilled instinct, it’s a mystery; I don’t know. I guess scientists, veterinarians could say, “Well, here is the reason, built in their genetic make-up...” Okay, okay. Sometimes I think they’re just making stuff up. I’m just being honest with you.

But, I want to share something, and, I kind of weighed this up, as far as, whether to do this: I’ve got a song—I’m not going to sing it—but, I’ve got a song, that I’m going to play. I think I can do this; it’s not lengthy. But, I want you to hear this, because, because we’re talking about the mysteries in life. And, I think this is going to work; I’m going to bring it up, here, on YouTube. Hopefully it doesn’t give me a bunch of commercials first.

(Plays a few seconds of music)

I just wanted to play that first part. Does anybody know what language that is? It's Japanese. I actually heard that song years ago. It's from a movie soundtrack. Some of you may even know what it is. I knew Kirk did, because we went to see it. So, why do I play that? Why is it something that?—it's just a song that's in a foreign language. Does anybody here speak Japanese? Somebody said yes? No, okay; I knew that. That's part of the mysteries. Have you ever been in a place where you didn't speak the language? I think a lot of us could say that they've been in that boat. A little bit mysterious, a little bit unnerving, a little bit scary, kind of like being in the presence of God. A little bit scary at times, a little bit desperate, at times.

**Deuteronomy 29:29** *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

This is one of my favorite verses because it proves that there are still secrets, there are still mysteries, and there's things that we don't know, and we'll never know. Our goal isn't to try and outsmart everybody or think that we're going to be a renaissance man or renaissance woman. I'm not saying don't learn new skills, or gaining knowledge as you go through life—we already talked about that, but, but having a relationship with the great God-Almighty that is personal and everlasting, that's going to be what will matter more than everything. And, that's part of that mystery. That's part of that—we don't know every step of the way. God does; God knew the Cubs were going to win. Some of you might have. I didn't. I'm not a Cubs fan, but I appreciate the fact that they've been tenacious, and there are people here that are, and have just stuck with it.

### 3rd Point – Appreciating God's Creation

I hope you've noticed as we've been going through the service, and, not just this morning, but a lot of the screen-wallpaper that Pete put on the overhead, during the songs, during the Scriptures, during the message. Now think about how dull it would be if it was just a blank screen. I mean, that would be kind of boring, kind of dull, it's already a dim room, but, having that up there, I think that makes a big difference. That's one of the goals. I mean, not to try to, like, sit there and con people into believing in the Word of God, or—but they've got to see that there's an enjoyment, that there's a liking to live this kind of life. It spices things up. It livens the atmosphere up a little bit.

There's a popular agreement among scholars—and maybe a lot of us have heard this—and historians that they have what they call, "The Seven Wonders of the World." Has anybody heard that before? I didn't even know what they were, exactly, until I looked them up, and I have to say that it's an impressive list, although I wouldn't necessarily, to the degree that these would be my choices, but I'm not a historian and I haven't traveled to every country in the world, either. But here they are in no particular order.

- Great Pyramid of Giza
- Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- Statue of Zeus at Olympia
- Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
- Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
- Colossus of Rhodes

- Lighthouse of Alexandria

So, these are, I would actually call them pretty archaic. But, I have to say, as I was looking these over—I never really studied this extensively or anything, but there is one characteristic that all these things share. Can anybody guess what they are? Man-made. That’s right. They’re all man-made structures. Now to be fair, there are also what are considered “The Seven Natural Wonders of the World,” so, now you’ve got places like Stonehenge, Machu Picchu, and the Grand Canyon, and there’s others—Niagara Falls is in there. We’re going to look at a passage from Hebrews so we can understand who really should be getting the credit, here.

**Hebrews 3:1-4** *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*

So, every house is built by some man, but He that built all things is God. So, I appreciated somebody bringing the youth up, earlier. Because, I’ve got to say that, it made me think about this, as we were going through the worship time, if anybody really appreciates the creation—and I’m not saying adults don’t—but, if anybody appreciates, like, the newness, and the fresh look at things, it’s youth. I mean, I have to say, you know, this might sound a little odd, but I remember even, as a kid, and there’s times when God re-instills that, like what you shared, Alma, about re-instilling that joy, about having a refresher. I remember—how many remembers looking at coins when you were a kid? I mean, I’m not saying that they were the most fascinating objects to look at, but, a dime, if you look at it, it’s got a lot of architecture, like the engraving, the way it is, and I remember God just highlighted that to me, not long ago—maybe in the last couple of years. And just showed me, “Remember how you did see that, when you were a young kid?” It was fascinating, looking at another coin, or, look at, like, a waterfall, or you look at the formation of land. How many here has a place that you’ve visited, not just seen in pictures, I’m talking about you’ve been there; not just, “I’ve seen it in a movie,” we’re not talking about that, or read about in a book, but you would consider it to be one of your favorite places to go? A lot of people. I think everyone has one. So I want to get a little participation; I want to ask whoever is willing to share—nothing lengthy, but, tell me about what place that you really like, and just tell me why. This is about appreciating God’s creation.

Vince?

**Vince:** Rocky Mountains. They have a real high crest, and, probably more than a hundred miles away, you can see the snow-capped peaks cross the Great Plains.

I’m getting goose bumps just thinking about it. Gloria?

**Gloria:** The Ocean.

She’s from Maine, so... Ed K.?

**Ed:** Niagara Falls, the way that it’s formed, and the water continues to flow, and the smoke that comes up from it. It’s amazing how God just did that.

Yeah, I agree. Donna?

**Donna:** In Michigan, Ironwood, the waterfalls.

Is that U.P.?

**Donna:** Yeah.

Okay, okay. I've never been there, but I believe it. Bob?

**Bob:** Jonesboro Pier, in Milbridge, Maine, where my dad fished and watched Bald Eagles. It's fascinating.

I like it. I've never been—well, I've been on the Southern coast of Maine, but not that part. Anybody else? Arman?

**Arman:** We have this volcano in the Philippines, called Taal Volcano. Beautiful area. It's peaceful, and, it's around the water.

I believe that. I've never been there, but I know the volcanic formations over here. I think somebody else had their hand up over there... Jose?

**Jose:** The mountains of Kirghizstan. They're so high, and the peaks are full of snow...

What time of year?

**Jose:** Pretty much all year round. At least in the Spring.

Very nice. Malcolm?

**Malcolm:** There's a mountain in Ghana that has foliage going around the mountain. You can see it from the valley, and it's unbelievable when you look down from the top, and all you see is greenery, and different type of trees.

Amen. Sonia?

Sonia: Andy and I visited a friend in Arizona many years ago. Breathtaking. It just boggles the imagination. It was nothing that I expected.

I agree. I'm getting goosebumps, again. Andy?

**Andy:** Being out in the middle of the ocean, and not being able to see anything that's man-made, other than whatever structure you're on. Seeing nothing but stars in the middle of the night, and realize how small I am, compared to creation.

Yeah. It's humbling. Anybody else? Phil?

Phil: I still miss being on Whidbey Island, Washington, and being able to see the Cascades on my right, and Puget Sound on my left.

That's it; that's a spectacular area. Nancy, and then Alma, and then, that's going to be it.

**Nancy:** In Pennsylvania, driving through the mountains.

I know Greg Grashen really like driving through the mountains, so, if anybody gets a chance...  
Alma?

**Alma:** I visited these caves in Puerto Rico. It's amazing how the water just forms stalagmites. It's just amazing.

Amen. Thank you all for sharing. I'm going to read a verse, and then we're going to be closing in, like, five minutes or so. These are ways that we convince ourselves, day-in and day-out. There's going to be times when Satan's going to say, "Oh, God's not real," or, "God didn't do this for you," or, you know, I mean, different ways to try to detour us, different ways to try to discourage us, different ways to try to frustrate us.

**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:*

There's nothing wrong with savoring our time here on earth. I'm not saying we're not going to experience heart-ache, or depression, or problems, or sadness. I mean, those things are going to come up. But there still is time for joy, there still is time for contentment, and fond reflection. I was at Grant Woods—not Grandwood, out here, but Grant Woods, which is a Forest Preserve about twenty miles, out in Lake Villa—just out and walking around. I blew off Rob Severance, we were going to go bike riding I was like, "Nah, it's too cold." He still went. Where's Rob? He came back, "You going to go bike riding today?" Nah, man, I walked today, so..." But, I enjoyed that. I really did; it was just getting a little fresh air, looking at the foliage. I know I asked earlier—and, Sonia, you stole Arizona, that's one of my favorite places. But, I'd have to say a lot of it has to do with the mountains, the desert, the saguaro cactus, and the landscape, and you know, the culture of people, and the basic cuisine. Myself and Tom Hanson were out the about a year and a half ago. We were visiting Tony Mattia's family, as far as, having a memorial service, and then scattering his ashes. We were just having fellowship in the evening, and Tom shared something that really stood out a lot, and the way he put this was, "God really knows how to close out a day," because it was now, like, sunset, you know, getting later into the evening. And, it really hit me! And, he said, "He really takes His time in closing out a day. You know, with the sun going down, and the wind dying down a little bit, and the different birds stop chirping, and even those that are nocturnal, that are hunters, they've got to be quiet, because, if they're going to hunt, if they're going to find something, they have to keep quiet, too." I'm not talking about the sound of industry, or the sound of cars honking, I'm not talking about that at all. I'm taking about creation, just that creation, and that stuck with me, just the way he said it, because I've never heard it put quite that way. It's a little bit about appreciating God's creation.

I'd even go so far as to say this: that God knows how to wind down our lives. And I'm not talking about something morbid, I'm talking about, in Psalms 116:15, it says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." We do start to slow down a little bit more, we do start to age, and we can't move quite as quickly. But, we're not meant to stay here forever, regardless of how much we appreciate the beauty of God's creation, and I'm closing here. I'm winding down the message, too. We're not meant to dwell on planet Earth for all eternity, in spite of how beautiful it is, and what our surrounding are, and it



can be pretty breathtaking sometimes. And, again, I appreciate everything that everybody shared. But God has something even greater in store, if we believe it. Even something greater than we could ever possible imagine, if we believe it.

I'm going to close out; I'm going to read:

**1 Corinthians 2:7-9** *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery there's that word, 'mystery,' again], even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

Thank you all for your time. God bless.

