**1. “CREATION AND ITS CONCEPTS”**

**Section 1:** THE ORIGINAL PLAN

**Biblical Basis:** Genesis 1 – 2

**Objective:** That class members recognize that a person’s view of life’s origin determines his answer to life’s most vital questions.

**INTRODUCTION**

The key questions of life with which all mankind struggles are these: “Who am I?” “How did I get here?” “Why am I here?” “Where am I going?” and “Is there any purpose to life?” Throughout the ages, people have philosophized about the possible answers.

Either all creation is the product of chance or it is the design of a Divine Creator. Either life has purpose and meaning, or it is all “sound and fury signifying nothing.” Either all human beings have value and dignity, or they have their value in the “survival of the fittest” and in their productivity.

In this first study, we understand our universe from the Creator’s point of view and purpose. It is only when human beings understand God’s plan and purpose for creation that they are able to discover who they are, why they are here, and what life’s purpose is.

**I. GOD’S CREATION (How you view God)**

 A. How does the Bible explain the origin of the universe and world we live in?

 (Gen 1-2; Col 1:15-17)

 What would you point to that gives evidence of intelligent design?

 B. What do the following verses say that supports the view that our universe has the stamp of quality on it? (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

**II. GOD’S RELATIONSHIP TO HIS CREATION (How you view your world)**

 A. What do you identify – from the creation story – that would indicate that God designed and planned the world with humanity in mind? (Gen 1:29-30; 2:8-9, 20-25)

 How does one’s view of creation impact how he will relate to it?

 B. How does the Bible describe God’s relationship to His creation after He made it?

 (Isa 43:2-3; Ps 46:1-3; 91:11-13; I Pet 5:7)

 Why is your view of God’s continual care important for daily living?

 C. What further claim is God making as the “creator of heaven and earth?”

 (Deut 8:17-18; Ps 24:1; I Chron 29:10-14)

**III. MAN’S RELATIONSHIP TO HIS CREATOR (How you view yourself/others)**

A. What distinguishing description does Genesis 1:26-27 give of mankind?

 How does the creationist worldview contrast with the evolutionist worldview? How do these views impact the moral issues of abortion, euthanasia, pornography, torture, etc.?

 B. What is there about human beings that can be identified as a replication of God’s image?

 C. What did God do to assure that mankind had a free will? (Gen 2:15-17; Deut 30:15-20)

**IV. MAN’S RESPONSIBILITY IN CREATION (How you view life’s priorities)**

 A. How does God encourage His creation to participate in the on-going creative venture?

 (Gen 1:28)

 B. What does it mean that God called man to “subdue” the earth? (Gen 1:28)

 C. What does God do in His plan to prevent the world from deteriorating? (Gen 2:15)

 D. What does it mean for humanity to exercise “dominion” over the earth? (Gen 1:28)

**CONCLUSION**

1. If you are created in the image of God, how ought you to view yourself?

2. If others are created in the image of God, how should you view others?

3. What do you see to be your responsibility to God and His creation?