

# Giving Thanks to God for Creation

Paul

## Foundation

### Bible passage: Romans 1.20-21

At times we probably all forget to say thank you for things and young children may particularly need reminding. There may be all sorts of reasons we forget to do so but sometimes it is because we just taken the gift for granted. When we give gifts, and the recipient doesn't say thank you we may feel irritated or upset.

In Romans chapter 1 the Apostle Paul writes about how people do not thank God when they should. He had in mind how creation reveals something about God its creator, but many ignored this fact in how they lived. Paul says, as many would still today, that the creation speaks clearly about God's eternal power and divine nature. Yet people do "not honour him as God or give thanks to him".

"they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him"

Because God has made the universe and everything in it, all that we are and all that we have comes from Him. Yet how often do we thank God for that fact, either about ourselves or about our creation. Many will marvel and rave about how amazing the creation is but give no honour to God the creator.

There are several places in the Bible where we find people praise God because He is the creator. For example, in Psalm 139 verse 14 David wrote "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made". The word translated praise is often translated thanks (e.g. Psalm 107). Our



*Eagle Nebula's Pillars of Creation in Infrared*

bodies are amazing and like the universe the more we learn about them the more we seem to find out there are things we don't know. Yet how often do we praise and thank God that we are fearfully and wonderfully made?

Though we should thank God for creation the Bible speaks more often of praising Him for it. Indeed, in Psalm 148 the creation itself is called on to praise God. In particular the highest heavens are called to praise God because He created them (v4-5). This time the Hebrew word definitely means praise, it is *hallelu*, as in "*hallelu-ja* - praise the Lord".

### Booklet:

What does Paul say all people should do? - Thank God for who He is and for His creation. Why do people not do this? - We ignore the truth about God (v18)

### Reflection:

What does it feel like when people forget to thank you?

Will thinking about this help you to remember to thank others, and to thank God?



**God has made all things (which includes us) and we should honour Him by giving thanks and praise.**