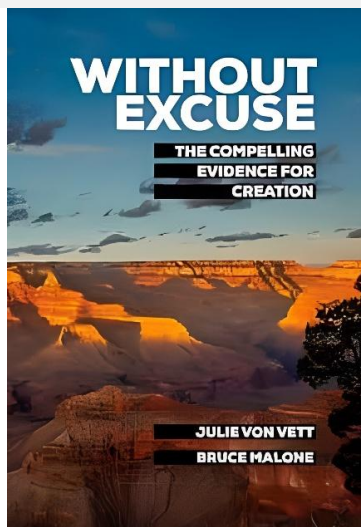


Second Sunday of Christmas – 2026

Saturday, 1/3 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/4 at 9:00



Text: NAS 2020

By the Holy Spirit: Let's ♡understand and ♡apply the Bible in our lives!

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **Happy New Year!**

1. **We Believe:** By the Spirit through the Bible, we believe:
 - a. **The Bible is true!** Jesus prayed to His Father in **John 17:17** “Your word is truth.”
 - b. **The Father worked *through the Son* to create all things!** The key reference is **Hebrews 1:2** [*regarding the Son*] “through whom [God] also made the world.”
 - c. **The “U” verse of the ABC Bible Verses! What is it?** **Hebrews 11:3** “Understand that the universe was formed at God’s command...”

In Summary: God’s creation is recorded in **Genesis chapters 1 and 2**; however, ***God’s work of creation is repeatedly mentioned throughout the Bible***. In fact, God’s

work of creating in six days and resting on the seventh day is why the whole world follows a seven-day week!

2. **Most Suppress the Truth:** **Romans 1:18-20** “...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because **that which is known about God is evident within them**; for **God made it evident to them**. 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.”

- a. **What has God done?** God’s work of creation is clearly seen by everyone: ➡ the perfect rotation of our planet, ➡ the overwhelming complexity of DNA, and ➡ the beautiful simplicity of an orange being pre-divided into bite-size pieces.
- b. **Which church bodies reject a literal six-day, young-earth creation?** Here are some of them:
 - i. Roman Catholic Church
 - ii. Episcopal Church (USA)
 - iii. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
 - iv. Presbyterian Church (USA)
 - v. United Methodist Church
 - vi. United Church of Christ
- c. **How do people suppress the truth?** When they say God did not create the world *as explained in the Bible* – *they are holding to some form of evolution*. Therefore, they conclude the Bible is not reliable, which leads them – **guilt free** – into various practices of ungodliness and unrighteousness.

d. **What are some ungodly practices?**

- i. Rejection of God's word – by not reading it and not gathering to hear it!
- ii. Gender confusion – not respecting God's creation of male and female!
- iii. Sex outside of marriage – believing that our ways are better than God's ways!

e. **Why is creation rejection a problem? Galatians 5:9**

“A little leaven [*false teaching*] leavens [*works through*] the whole lump of dough.” Sadly, creation-rejecting church bodies are falling further away from God's saving truth (John 8:31-32; 14:6).

f. **What is true of all creation rejectors? They are**

WITHOUT EXCUSE! Think about the parable of the wedding banquet; in Matthew 22:12, the king said, “Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?” The Bible tells us that the man was speechless, but that is not accurate. Looking at the Greek, the man was **muzzled, silenced – given no opportunity to give an excuse – BECAUSE THERE IS NO EXCUSE!**

3. **Daily Devotion Book – WITHOUT EXCUSE:**

a. **We are making the book available today:** Because I want us to:

- i. Believe the Bible is true!
- ii. Trust in Jesus for eternal life!
- iii. Become more aware of God awesomeness!
- iv. Become equipped to tell others about ✦who God is and ✦what God has done!

b. **Here is one example from the book¹:** Let's learn about God's amazing hummingbird:

- i. Its heart beats up to 1,200 times / minute.
- ii. Its wings flap up to 80 times / second.
- iii. Since the hummingbird burns a lot of energy, it extracts nectar from 2,000 flowers each day! How? It uses a long specifically designed tongue, which has its own micro pump. As the tongue probes into the flower and touches the nectar, the tongue unzips into two long narrow tubes. The nectar is drawn in as each tube expands. The tongue is then brought into the mouth, and the bird squeezes the nectar from its tongue by collapsing the tubes. It keeps following that same procedure up to 23 times / second!
- iv. The hummingbird's pump is *far more advanced than a human engineer could design*! Who designed it? ***The LORD God Almighty!!!***



Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, *You are so awesome!* We know that is true *because of Your creation in which we live!* Please move many read, benefit from, and share the contents of our 2026 devotional book offering: **WITHOUT EXCUSE!**

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¹ Julie Von Vett, Bruce A. Malone, WITHOUT EXCUSE, January 2022, July 1 Devotion.