***‘Getting To Know Pastor Joe’ Columns #9***

**“Do you believe what you recite?”**

The tales from Greek and Roman mythology are filled with immoral and unethical stories. For example, the god Chronos, in conspiracy with his mother, castrates his father Uranus. To secure his throne, he then devours each son born to him.

Zeus, known as the king of gods, is almost a scoundrel, engaging in relationships with his grandmother, mother, sisters, and descendants, often through deceit. For instance, he seduces his sister Hera by transforming into a drenched cuckoo, whom Hera, feeling pity, wraps in her skirt, only for Zeus to take advantage of her. He also approaches other women disguised as their husbands or even their daughters, and then assaults them. The gods of Greek mythology are often born through such disgraceful acts. Upon reading, one might wonder why such a book is recommended at all. In my view, these myths are far from commendable.

Regarding the immorality in these myths, some say, "The stories in mythology are from a time before our current morals and ethics were established. Myths might be telling us about the evolution of morals and ethics through stories." They also say, "If morality is the flower in a well-tended garden, then myths are like the flowers that grew in the wild before gardens existed." Essentially, they suggest that these stories reflect the harsh reality of survival of the fittest.

Some might hear this defense and easily think that morality and ethics have evolved. However, this is far from the truth. Looking into cultures long before Greek mythology, like ancient Egypt, Babylonia, and China, we find that their concepts of morality weren't much different from ours today. For example, while the number of wives one might have varied by culture, the act of taking another's wife was universally seen as wrong and deserving of punishment.

Morality, the concept of right and wrong, curiously seems to have always existed. Ancient peoples knew that stealing, deceiving, or being dishonest was wrong. Even without being taught, we express anger when someone breaks this ‘natural law’, and feel shame when we ourselves do. This fundamental moral sense hasn't evolved but has always been inherent in humans.

I believe this is one of the significant pieces of evidence that humans were created, not evolved. As we recite in the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth," we confess not just with our lips but with our hearts that the world was created by God, not evolved. Hallelujah!