

Remnant Life Church
October 6, 2019
Genesis: The Beginning: pt 2
(Gen 1:1; 8:21-22)

Two important considerations about creation for us to know

1. God created everything (Gen 1:1-2)

- a. You cannot begin to understand the meaning of the creation of everything if you are not first introduced to the One who is before everything!
- b. **Gen 1:1** – *In the beginning, God...*
 - i. The concept of reality that we live in exists on a linear plane of time
 - ii. Beginning/end; past/present/future; then/now
- c. But God was before everything meaning He is not dependent on anything
 - i. The first truth of God requires us to have faith in order to believe
- d. What is the context of this very first verse of the Bible?
 - i. The first question is who was Genesis written for?
 - ii. For the Israelites who had just spent 400 or so years under the bondage of the Egyptians knowing only ancient stories of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
 1. As an independent nation, set free through a multitude of miraculous events they are asking questions
 2. Who is this God? How did we come to know Him and He us? Is our God the real God?
 - iii. Genesis begins with God answering those questions with one statement
 1. *In the beginning... God*
 2. God did not want the hearts of the Israelites to wander
 3. Although we see from their account throughout the Old Testament, that is exactly what they did – chasing after other gods
- e. Is that not continuing to happen today? - Wandering hearts
- f. We may not call them gods, but what does your heart chase after today that has taken the place in your life where God should be?
 - i. What gets most of your affection, your time, your money?
- g. The one, true God created everything in your existence because He loves you

2. God created everything good (Gen 1:3-25)

- a. The details of the creation each end with, “*He saw that it was good*”
- b. The word “good” in the original Hebrew is “*tove*”
- c. Means good in every sense of the word
 - i. Agreeable, pleasant, rich, appropriate, better, happy, prosperous, ethical, etc...
 - ii. In other words, God’s creation is appealing to every sensory aspect of our lives
 - iii. There was a totality of perfection in His creation
 1. Sin has altered that...for a time

- d. In the beginning God's creation was morally good, it was pleasing to those who would inhabit it, and completely sufficient for sustaining life
- e. God's creation was not only perfect, but He is perfect in all of His ways
 - i. *God is the Ruler of His mighty creation. There is no reason to despair, because He holds in His hands the whole world, while His Spirit is able to fill the void in man's heart.* – Billy Graham
 - ii. That is the goodness of God which was most perfectly expressed in the person of Jesus Christ

God created everything and everything He created was good...

So, what was the purpose and design of creation?

1. To declare God's glory (*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Ps. 19:1*).
2. To reveal things about God that are invisible to us (*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Rom. 1:20*)

The book of Genesis begins with the most important first thing...

- *In the beginning... God (Gen 1:1)*
- Genesis is a book with theology at its center
 - The word theology means to study God
 - Every aspect of who He is in relationship to us
- A theological theme simply means what is being examined has to do with God
- There are four primary theological themes in the book of Genesis
 - **Theme 1** – (as we have already said) God is the creator of all things
 - **Theme 2** – The entrance of sin into the created order set by God radically altered the original creation
 - Important to understand that God allowed this
 - It was not out of His control (just as Jesus did not have to go to the cross)
 - **Theme 3** – God's judgment meets human sin every time
 - **Theme 4** – God continually sustains both His natural creation and humans by His inexhaustible, preserving grace

We must recognize (or perhaps be reminded) of the devastating effect of sin in our lives and in the world

In the first 11 chapters of the book it is revealed, and we clearly see the overwhelming corrupting power of sin

- It began with Adam and Eve disobeying God because of their desire to be independent
- That sin is then manifested in their son Cain, as he murders his brother out of jealousy
- Continues to escalate until God finally decides to bring judgment on the whole earth by the flood, but even that global judgment is tempered with His unmerited grace
 - Sin, of course, is not eradicated totally as it resides in the heart of man

- **Psalm 51:5** – *Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*
- Yet God is merciful even as Noah first emerges from the ark
 - **Gen 8:21-22** - *The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”*

My desire for each of you today:

- You know that God loves you unconditionally
 - **Rom 8:35-39** - *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Our world has nearly obliterated the line between right and wrong but God cannot, does not, and will not tolerate sin - His judgment will always be realized
 - **Rom 2:5** - *But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.*
- But His judgment is tempered because he is a restorative, redemptive God who has made a way for us to be forgiven
 - **Eph 1:7-10** - *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

The power of Christ’s shed blood not only saves us and forgives us our sins, but all of His creation will one day be brought back into the unity and perfection of His original creation when this time on earth is done.