

Week of 01-08-2023
Series: The Story, Ch. 1, Pt. 2
Sermon: In the Beginning
Text: Genesis 1

Sermon Outline:

1. God created everything that is. (1)
2. God created everything with order and purpose. (2-25)
3. God created man in His image. (26-30)
4. God created and it was very good. (31)

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Genesis 1:1 and Psalm 135:6. Since God created everything that is, then it is God alone who gets to determine things like:
 - The right and wrong way to use or to enjoy that creation.
 - The meaning, purpose, and value of each individual part of the creation.
 - The limits on what mankind can know about creation.
 - And even if/when the creation will cease to be.

Have you ever had trouble with the above concept when it comes to right, wrong, meaning, purpose, value, etc. If so, in what way?

How can this perspective be very comforting?

2. Read Genesis 1:2-25. God created everything with order and purpose. This rhythm we see: “*And God said...*” followed by: “*...and there was evening and there was morning...*” is the orderly pattern of God’s creative acts. He first creates spaces on Days 1, 2, & 3. And then He fills those spaces on Days 3, 4, & 5. And everything was created, for specific reasons, to do specific things.

With that said, how does the order and purpose we see in Genesis 1 speak to how you should think about the world God has placed you in regarding:

- Family?
- Friends?
- Career
- Future plans
- Etc.?

3. Read Genesis 1:26-30. God created man and woman in His image.
 - What does it mean to be created in God’s image? Consider the Trinity. Consider God’s attributes.
 - Since every person is created in God’s image, what does that say about the worth of each person? Are some people more valuable than others? Explain.
 - How might it be impossible to ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ (*Luke 10*) if you believe that some people are more valuable than others?
4. Read Genesis 1:31. God is good (*Nahum 1:7*). And everything God does is good, as indicated throughout Genesis 1. Why do you think “very” is added in v31? Could there be multiple reasons?