

## Genesis 1:1-13

## The Joy of Our Creator

02/5/17

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

*<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.<sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

*<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.*

*<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.*

*<sup>11</sup>And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.*

*(Pastor prays)*

As the sun makes its ultimate descent on the horizon and the orange and pink hues of the sherbet sky fade into the darkness of night, we humans wait in the darkness for the sun to appear once again in the eastern sky.

Each morning's new light conquers our anxious night. Each successive day is brand new evidence of God's lovingkindness and faithfulness and, even this morning, the rising sun and the rotating earth breathe hope and light into the dark night of your soul.

So whatever depression, hang-up or anxiety, whatever uneasiness you may have for the future, will be mastered when you gaze on the God of Genesis. Because the God of the beginning is the God of new beginnings. Maybe, just maybe, He has allowed you to see how dark the darkness is so that you might know just how brilliant the light of Christ is. Maybe He has shaken the foundations of your faith only to show you how trustworthy Christ is. Maybe He's taking you through the darkness of verse 2 so that you might trust the light of verse 3. I'm captivated by this and I pray you are too. Because...

## **Creation Drives Us to Trust the Creator**

### **In Creation, God Brings Order to Our Confusion**

When you read the text of the first 3 days, God takes the formless void of verse 2 and brings order to it all. In fact, 3 days of creation was not an arbitrary stopping point. There is order and logic and beauty in the sequence of creation.

Day 1 (Light and Darkness) corresponds to Day 4 (Sun, Moon and Stars).

Day 2 (Expanse, Waters below and Waters above) corresponds to Day 5 (Birds and Fish).

Day 3 (Earth and Vegetation) corresponds to Day 6 (Animals and Man).

God takes the confusion of the universe and fills it with order. He creates and then He fills; and what feels like confusion to us is God working out His perfect plan. It's a plan that we just don't see.

Most of you know mine and Connie's story. We couldn't have children. It makes no sense to me. We love God and each other. On February 26, 1999, I turned 30, met my two sons and also got a call from Hickory Grove to come on staff. God was working His plan. The confusion and sin and pain and a life that hasn't gone like you had planned is God showing you your need for Christ. His life, death and resurrection. In Christ, He brings order to our confusion.

## **In Creation, God Brings Light to Our Darkness**

I won't spend much time here except to say that the beauty of verse 3 should astound us.

Here God speaks, "Let there be light." The first spoken words are light and here you see the Glory of the self-emanating God, this light that we know as Christ. John 1:5 tells us "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*" And before the sun is created, we have the light that is Christ. On day 4 when the sun is created, that sun that God created doesn't point us *away* from God but *to* Him. Listen, the science of astronomy, the study of the stars and exploration of space, that doesn't cause me to doubt God. It makes me marvel at His vastness. It makes me praise Him for His mercy. It makes me run to Him and pray that His light would shine on me so that my sin is exposed and my heart is made pure. It makes me look to the cross of Jesus where the light shines the brightest, where the darkness of my soul is vanquished. In creation, God brings confusion into order and brings light to our darkness.

## **In Creation, God Brings Purpose to Meaninglessness**

Once you get past the void of verse 2, the text shows us the meticulous plan of God behind every creative action, that everything has its purpose and its place. The truth is that some of you doubt that. You hear it in the fatalistic saying, "It is what it is." Or as Solomon said it in Ecclesiastes, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." If God can draw meaning out of the formlessness and void of verse 2, then He will make perfect sense of your life. But He will only do that in the light of Christ, when He speaks into your heart, "Let there be light." And that light is Christ.

## **In Creation, God Blesses What He Makes**

When you read the creation account over and over again, there is a chorus or a pattern that emerges. There is a refrain that keeps reminding the reader of how God works. Let me show it to you. I will read it in verse 4 and 10 and again in verse 12. *4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness., 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And*

*God saw that it was good.,<sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.* God saw that it was good. "Good" in Hebrew is:טוב. Tov.

This is a *different* kind of good. It's the idea of a builder or craftsman stepping back from his work and looking at it and being pleased. But more than that, it's the idea of an artist finishing his work and stepping back and knowing there is nothing more to add. We get the sense of God, looking at His creation and "It was good."

My first car was a 1966 Dodge Coronet, a 2-door hardtop. I bought it from my grandmother, and added chrome wheels and wide tires. I put holes in the muffler but it did not have the effect that I had hoped. Just about every weekend, I would wash and wax that car, Armor-All every surface and then stand back and admire. God does that with His creation. We are His creation.

I wonder, when He steps back and looks at you, what does He see? You were created for His glory but sin has blocked that. Your sins, big and small. That's why in Christ we must be re-created. Isn't that what Paul meant in 2 Corinthians 5:17 when he said, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* So, that when you are in Christ, God sees the imputed righteousness of Christ and He can look at you and say, "it is good." There's another thing to consider.

### **In Creation God Enables His Work**

There are two things that we see, word and spirit.

In each instance the work of creation commences with the words, "And God said" and the reassurance "it was so" in verses 3, 6-7, 9 and 11. From the beginning, it's the *word* that brought about creation. God gives us a strong doctrine of the Word. Expository Preaching, Sunday School, AWANA, bringing your Bible to church, and reading are vitally important because the Bible shows God in His holiness, man in his sin and Jesus Christ as the Savior.

We must build a strong base of Bible knowledge but that can't be all. Let me take you back to verse 2. The spirit of God was hovering and moving. Remember when Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that, "You must be born again, Nicodemus. You must be born of the Spirit"? It's the Word that brings order and the Spirit brings life.

One of my favorite Old Testament passages is in Ezekiel 37. The Valley of the Dry Bones. Ezekiel preached the Word and the bones lined up and came together. But it wasn't until the Spirit moved that the bones came to life. We read, preach and believe the Word but it's the Spirit that gives life. Think of how the trinity works in you being saved. God the Father plans salvation. God the Son purchases salvation, and God the Spirit applies salvation.

*(Pastor shares the Gospel and prays)*