

Activity Sheet, 3 December 2017

Creation and Character

Genesis 1v31

- How 'wonderful' is the creation we see today? How does this reflect on the character of the creator?
 - Creation does reveal the character of the creator
 - But we see beauty and suffering in creation now
- If there is no God what can we say is wrong with the world (i.e. not as it should be): (a) everything, (b) some things, (c) nothing?

(1) Creation is good because God is good [Psalm 119v68]

- good 7x, emphasised on 7th [1v4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31]
- God satisfied [2v2]
- what God says and sees
- good land has life, plenty, safety [Deuteronomy 8v7-10, Leviticus 26v6]
- what is not good absent [2v17, 18, 6v5-6, 11]
- how finished creation worked together was good [1v31]

- ▶ not what see in creation now
- ▶ God is in control, but not to blame

(2) Created things are still good [1 Timothy 4v4]

- bodily limitations not bad
- not to look after body is bad
- trying to blame/escape body is bad

- The problem with creation now is that it (a) is made of physical stuff, or (b) doesn't work as it should?
- Did Adam need to eat in the original creation?

(3) Jesus - the Son of God made flesh - is good [Matthew 3v17]

- because Jesus physically died and rose again he will return – in flesh – to restore a good creation.

Questions for discussion:

1. Why do people today question that God is good?
2. Why is it difficult for us today to claim that the world began without death or suffering? Would it be easier to tell people about the gospel if we didn't say this?
3. What examples can you give of how we struggle with our bodily existence today? How does what Genesis teaches help us? [See this leaflet: www.christian.org.uk/resource/gnosticism/]
4. "...life became very simple. Controllable. With my body, I was able to create my own universe. A realm where I ruled, with unquestioned sovereignty. I was no longer at the mercy of my feelings. I was in charge: a self-created, stainless-steel person. Bleached to perfection." [Emma Scrivener, *A New Name*, p66] What was wrong with what Emma was thinking and doing? What is the answer?