

Shalom Series
Peace With Creation, Part One
10/16/21
Newport News

Opening/Introduction

-Pray

-October Fund Raising

- Café AC unit replacement - \$30k (original to addition)
- Water line to offices - \$15k (original to first building 1950's)
- We have \$40k in the building fund
- We plan to add another \$25k to that in January
- And we have emergency reserves as well...
- Let's raise at least \$10k this month...
- Then take not more than \$35k from the building fund...

This Series

-Are you at peace with God, yourself, others, and creation?

-The two texts we are using that give us our subtitle: **Peace With Your Portion**

- Matthew 25:14-19 (God, yourself, others, and creation)
- Genesis 1:1-31 (God, yourself, others, and creation)

- Being at peace with your unchangeables...your portion.
- Being at peace with God's sovereignty...He is the portioner.
- Being at peace with diversity...their portion.
- Being at peace with your activity...your portion.

-Ephesians 2:8-10

-There is a portion of peace waiting for me in the good works (activity) God has planned for me.

-So why then are people who are frantically busy, often at the same time, troubled and distressed?

The Origin of Goodness

-During the creation story, on days 1 and 3-6 we are told God “saw that it was good.” And on day 6 He actually said “very good” because He was looking at everything together (reference last week). (Interesting this phrase is omitted on days 2 and 7, why...because He didn’t create anything new on these days.)

- It’s His emphasis on the created and not just creating.
- Good vs Very Good (what is vs. what is working together)
- **Goodness = finding meaning as directed by God**

-Genesis 1:26-28

- In verse 27 it reads “God created...” (Imago Dei about sanctity and purpose, the purpose of a unique relationship)
- In verse 28 it reads “God blessed...”
 - *I am created by God to be in relationship with Him. (other relationships, yes...but this is primary)*
 - *I am blessed by God to be in activity for Him. (“And God said to them: be active!”) (knowing God also means knowing our own personal “God said...” moments)*
- **“Goodness” is Biblical language we find in Genesis 1 to describe the feeling of Shalom that comes from being with and for God.**

-Genesis 2:1-3

-Genesis 2:1-3 is the first time we see Shalom present in God’s new creation because mankind in this moment is experiencing the goodness that comes from being with God in relationship and for God in activity. This is why Sabbath is so sacred...it is the celebration of BOTH sources of goodness that are part of Shalom!

Goodness Restored

-Have you ever noticed that the curses in Genesis 3 given to Adam and Eve were directly related to the way in which God created them?

-Genesis 3:16-19 (curses...talk briefly about how they are shared)

-Genesis 2:4-7 (God creates man)

-Genesis 2:21-24 (God creates woman)

-Genesis 3:16-19 (separated from God in sin but our innate needs remain)

- **You will suffer because the goodness you found in relationship with Me will not be present with other people...although you will demand it.** (one reason divorce is so high)
- **You will suffer because the goodness you found in activity for Me will not be present in other tasks...although you will demand it.**

-Ephesians 2:8-10

- *Jesus restores my sense of goodness with God (relationship).*
- *Jesus restores my sense of goodness for God (activity).*

-All of us are desperate for the “goodness” found in Creation and Jesus is the only Way there...Shalom!

Band

-A quick word about idleness...

- 2 Thessalonians 3 (verses 1-5 seem like he’s closing...and then it comes...idleness)

Close

-in moment