

Genesis 2:10-25; March 31, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Review and Intro:

We spent a fair amount of time last week talking about the sabbath being rooted creation and the extension of the command in the 3rd commandment (Ex 20; Dt 5).

Text:

V10-14 document four water sources (rivers). Two of the rivers are unknown (Pishon and Gihon.) The other two are in ancient Mesopotamia (later Babylon), modern day Iraq. The Tigris and Euphrates form the “fertile crescent.” Eden is generally thought to be in the extreme north or south.

V15-17 is the placing of man in the garden to cultivate and keep it. There are some direct application points to be noted here. First is that work is good and precedes the fall. (v15). It is not to be avoided or dreaded. Second, work is the extension of the imago Dei. As such, it is meaningful and not drudgery. Third, God is working, so should we (John 5:17).

So, work is a good thing. Paul instructs us to work hard and unto the Lord. “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Col 3:23-24. This mentality became known as the “Protestant work ethic” sometimes called the Calvinist work ethic.¹ It is responsible for building our nation, particularly in the early years. It is one of, if not the reason for American exceptionalism, the idea that goods made in the USA were of a higher quality than something made elsewhere. Both of these things, PWE and AE are kingdom values and are to be embraced and extolled. Not everyone gets a trophy. Half ass is no ass. A job done subpar is not a job done.

God created man and put him into the garden to extend His rule and reign. That was His job. Tending trees and digging and planting were the occasion. The same is true with us. The job is to reflect God in our tangible vocations. The specifics are the occasion by which we do so. Work is good. Work is divine. Be excellent. Be phenomenal. Live up to your name, calling and creational design.

¹ <https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/protestant-work-ethic>

God grants him permission to eat of any tree there (v16). V17 prohibits man from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and gives a curse or promise associated with the disobedience, “you shall surely die.” The “surely” emphasizes the point. Sin always brings death (Rom 3:23). It is not to be trifled with, treated with indifference or overlooked. Sin is a killer and we should treat it as such. It is to be mortified (Rom 8:13; Col 3:5; Eph 4:22-24; Gal 5:16-24; 1Cor 9:27.)

V18-25 is the narrative of women’s creation.

V18 is the first time that God says that something is not good. This is a somewhat shocking or startling development. The previous refrain was that everything was good. Now something is not good. What is not good? That man should be alone. Why is this? It is conjectured that being a reflection of God, and God is in community being Triune, there should be more than one person present. Hence, man’s aloneness doesn’t rightly reflect the image of God. Man needs a helper. The helper can’t just be anyone, it must be someone like him. The animals will not do. They are different, too different to reflect the image of God. V18 and 20 repeat the idea of the helper needing to be “suitable” for him. I suspect this has to do with image bearing and reproduction.

V19-20 God parades the animals past Adam for him to name them. For the purpose of illustration. In naming them, Adam is also exercising dominion.

V21-22 God causes Adam to fall asleep and removes a rib from him and fashions it into a woman. She is like Adam because she was taken from him. She is a side by side partner. Not taken from his head or feet. She is then brought before him.

V23 Is different from the naming of the animals. It is in a different typeset in your Bible because it is considered poetry or a song. Adam has a romantic experience when he sees woman. She is his kind.

Years ago, I heard Mark Driscoll (I know, there’s been some controversy with him), say that whatever your wife is, that’s your type. Whatever her hair color and build is, that’s your type. Whatever her personality is, that’s your type. She is beautiful and crafted for you and she should be treated as such. 1Peter 3:7 says to “live with your wife in an understanding way.” Paul tells husbands to “love your wives as Christ loves the church and gave Himself up for her.” -Ephesians 5:25.

V24 gives the command leave and cleave. It also gives a reason, namely that it is not good for him to be alone. With the waning influence of Christianity on society, marriage is on the decline in our culture. Men and women should seek marriage as the norm. Singleness is permitted and commended in 1Cor 7. It should be done only under Paul's commands and is the exception. Generally speaking, men and women should marry and be joined together physically (presence and sexually), and emotionally. They should leave their parents and create new households. The predominance of singleness in our culture is not good. It is a reflection of the godless culture. It exploits both men and women sexually and creates emotion and psychological damage.

Both Paul and Jesus commend marriage (Matt 19:5; Mark 10:7,8; 1Cor 6:16; Eph 5:31). Prov 18:22 "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD." Men should seek a wife and women should seek a husband. Marriage makes us better. It challenges us and more quickly forms us into the image of Christ. The cultural mandate (Gen 1:26-28) cannot be fully obeyed without marriage. Man's work is not complete without a helper. The two together make a unit capable of obeying all of the mandate to multiply and exercise dominion.

Remember that sin is a killer. Don't mess around with it. "Be killing sin or it will be killing you." -John Owen²

Work unto the LORD. Don't be lazy or lackadaisical. Be excellent.

Get a wife. Love her well. Have lots of kids and raise them in the fear and admonition of the LORD (Eph 6:4). If you have grandchildren, help your kids to raise them as such.

For next week: Chapter 3, the big fall.

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the worldview it provides. Help us to trust you as the creator of all things. For Christ and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

² <https://www.ligonier.org/posts/be-killing-sin-or-sin-will-be-killing-you>