

Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 2:4 - 25

"Welcome to Paradise"— January 30, 2022



Introduction

What does it mean to be human? In Genesis 1 - God has revealed His blueprints for what that means. ([Gen. 1:27](#)) Every human being has incredible worth and value because they have been given the privilege to reflect and represent God to this world. That reality should leave us in awe! It is a wonderful, amazing privilege. But at the same time, it is a weighty task. It can be overwhelming. How will mankind accomplish the task of this seemingly impossible task? We'll see that in Genesis chapter two. The impossible becomes possible with God.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. God made man with limitations. Vs. 4 - 7
2. God provides all that we need. Vs. 8 - 17
3. God gives us marriage. Vs. 18-25

Read & Discuss

1) Read 2:4-7

The first two chapters of Genesis give us the same creation account but told from different perspectives. While Genesis 1 is the zoomed out, big picture account, Genesis 2 is the zoomed in picture. Verses 5-6 focus on the perfection of God's creation before sin. Then verse 7 shows the creation of man in that perfection. While we were created to reflect and represent God, we do have limitations. These limitations keep us from thinking we are gods. We were formed from the dust of the earth – formed intentionally by God.

God has tailor made you (with limitations) to know Him, trust Him and enjoy Him forever. The sooner we accept this fact, the sooner we will be able to enjoy God and be set free to enjoy His gifts and the life He gave us.

How do you perceive your limitations? What goals and achievements are you chasing after? Why are you pursuing them? What do you need to trust God with today?

Additional Reading: Psalm 8; Psalm 103:13-14

2) Read 2:8-17

We see the lavishness of God's provision in this account. He provided everything that mankind would need in a beautiful garden where God would dwell with man.

We want God to provide what we need a week in advance. We have a lot of "what if" questions. We imagine the worst case scenario, and we become anxious. God provides what we need, when we need it so that we trust Him. More than we need His gifts, we need God.

God provides a good work for man to do. Adam was more than a gardener. The words "to work and to keep" describe the spiritual work of the priest. Just like Adam, we have a priestly function in our job. The world determines value by what we do. But God tells us that our value is rooted in being made in His image. He is calling Adam to guard the garden, worship God and keep His commands.

In a garden filled with "yes," there was one "no." God wants us to know right from wrong, but He doesn't want us to decide that for ourselves. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is a symbol of self-rule. To eat the fruit is to make ourselves above God. Eating of it is to reject God. When living dust rejects the God of life, it returns to dust.

What have you expected God to provide for you before you needed it? Do you recall a time when God was "right on time" with His provision for you? As you reflect on your job, what does it mean to be a Christian at work?

Additional Reading: Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Colossians 3:22-25

3) Read 2:18-25

In Genesis 1, at the end of each day of creation, God steps back, looks at what He has made, and sees that "it was good!" The natural world is good. Man is good. Work is good. In verse 18, we see God sovereignly assess the situation - something was not good.

God makes us to be relational. Man was alone, so God makes a "helper fit for him." God creates a corresponding counterpoint to man. The woman would supply what was lacking in the man.

This verse does not mean that our lives are incomplete if we are not married. Marriage is not God's only provision for loneliness. Singleness is a valuable thing in God's eye. Jesus is our example. God provides relationships a hundred fold for the single person. ([Mark 10:29-30](#))

How are we to define marriage? (vs. 24)

- Leave mother and father - Marriage takes priority to every relationship.
- To hold fast - to glue things together - marriage is meant to be permanent!
- Two people/one flesh - There is intimacy in marriage, and two selfish "me's" live as a unified "us."

Marriage is a symbol of how God wants to relate to His people. ([Ephesians 5:31-32](#)) This picture points to the real thing (Christ and the church) and creates longing to know God more.

With whom do you have valuable relationship? Do you see how your spouse or your good friends complement you? How can you re-channel your efforts to know God more and develop a deeper relationship with Him?

Additional Reading: Ephesians 5:22-30; Revelation 21:1-3

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Genesis 3:1-7 "Temptation and the Fall"
