

GENESIS 1-3  
Message 4

INTRO: I trust that we will find throughout this series that not only are we learning historical facts and so on but that there are practical truths in these passages. So that we will not only consider them theological but practical personal instruction as well. Let's get the drift by reading Genesis 1:1-5. The more I read this passage the more I see the tremendous amount of truth there is in a passage like this. We've considered the creation of the world, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". And then we began looking at the original state of the earth. And we want to continue this message by looking at the state of the original earth.

4) Dark (Cont'd)

We saw that it was without form and void and that there was darkness on the face of this earth. And we're continuing this thought of darkness on the earth. So we consider these words, "...darkness was on the face of the deep." I want us to notice the word, "...darkness was on the FACE of the deep." It's the Hebrew word panim, and again we notice the 'im ending. When the Hebrew takes about the face it speaks of it in the plural because we all have many faces and some of us they call two faced. You can tell what a person is like by their face. It is amazing what you can learn from a face, if you're observant. Henry often tells me that he doesn't read the faces of people because he cannot see very well. And his wife can see a lot better what state or frame of mind a person is in than he can. That is very true. If you cannot see well, you cannot read people well.

Jake, in our church can look at your face and pretty well read your day. That is discernment. You see, you can tell so much from the face. You don't look at the feet. You look at the face. You can look at a picture of a lake, and you look at the

face of the waters and you can read the day. You know what the day is like just by reading the face of the waters. It says here, "And darkness was on the face of the deep and that it was without form and void. You can learn so much from the earth on this first day of creation. Now consider the face of our planet in its original state and what kind of picture do you get? It is without form and void and darkness covers it. There is a picture of our original earth. And, very interestingly, God did not say it was good. We'll pick that thought up later on.

Now we notice another word in this passage, the deep. What is the deep? Well throughout Scripture the deep speaks of the seas and waters. So darkness was on the deep or on the waters. Now on the first day of creation, two things were clearly present as far as the earth is concerned. As a matter of fact, when God speaks of the earth it takes into consideration water and earth. When He created the earth they were both there. It's part of the earth. So here in Genesis 1 we find that water was part of the original creation of the earth. So they came into being simultaneously. Now our secular world speculates how water got onto the earth. I don't know if you were listening to the radio when this meteor travelled across the skies at night called Hillbock, named after the two fellows that discovered it. The radio mentioned that there were studies under way to see if there was water on it because the present view is that this earth got water on it by some meteor hitting the earth and then thawing. Now you see how many answers we get in Genesis 1:1-5. How much we learn in these verses that the secular world does not know about.

Now to my understanding is that at this point of creation there was no gravity.

The water could splash around. My view is that the earth turned right from the day of creation. But the water could remain in the form of a wave until something else came along and moved it. The text says it was without form. Formless and void.

f. What activity was going on

Now we want to look at point f. in your outlines. What was going on in creation? Genesis 1:2 does not only tell us that there was darkness on the face of the deep but, it tells us this, that the Spirit of God moved on the face of the water. I wonder if you have ever wondered, why did God include that statement? Every statement in this passage is loaded. Why did God include this here? Here in the second verse of Genesis we are introduced to the third Person of the Triune God. God the Holy Spirit. By the way in Genesis 1:1 we have God the Father, now in 1:2 we have God the Holy Spirit.

Now we dare not delve into the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, as necessary as that is. But our task at hand is an exposition of creation. But I must give you two basic lessons on Pneumatology here from Genesis 1:2. First and foremost, from my experience, one needs to understand that the Holy Spirit is a Person. That is crucial. Not to understand that will give trouble in the rest of Scripture and you will fall in line with the teachings of the cults. The Holy Spirit is a Person. Number two, the Holy Spirit is God. I am not giving proof for these statements this morning. They are provable. I am simply stating these great truths. The Holy Spirit is a Person and the Holy Spirit is divine. He is God.

Now I am not a cosmologist, someone who studies the origin of the earth. I am a theologian. You may differ with me on that, as far as my theological abilities go. A theologian must understand far beyond theology. One of the things that hinders me is

not having a good secular education. To be a good theologian, one must understand very widely in the secular world. I find myself going to Encyclopedia Britannica all the time. I wish I had this knowledge. I wish I understood electronics. I wish I understood light. I wish I understood gravity. I wish I understood a whole lot of things. I never learned them. I encourage those who go to school. Don't drop it. Even if you are going to be a preacher some day, these things are very helpful. You can do a much greater job in theology if your understanding in secular things is wider.

Now I say all this to say this. I believe that the earth was in motion in the same way it is today. And I didn't learn that from secular world. I learned that from theology. I class myself more a theologian. I will prove this from my perspective as we move along. Did you know we are travelling at a tremendous speed. What keeps us on this earth? Gravity. Now if the earth did not have gravity on that first day, what kept these waters on the earth? Is it not interesting then that God would say, "And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." You see, if it wasn't for gravity we'd just go shooting off this earth. We're travelling at a great speed right at this very moment.

Now the question is, what kept everything intact before gravity? I have no doubt it was the Spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters. The Hebrew word for moving here is rachaph. It means to flutter or to shake or to vibrate. Interesting what you can learn about the Holy Spirit here in Genesis 1:1-5. Have you ever wondered why God would tell us something like this: "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." It is a significant statement. Now here is some cosmology in theology in the Scriptures.

Now I want to draw some principles from this before we move on because there are some

lessons here about the Holy Spirit. We find it right here in Genesis 1:2. You see, we were given the Word of God by the moving of the Holy Spirit, the same action as we have here. And the Spirit of God was fluttering or hovering or shaking. An interesting work of the Holy Spirit taught elsewhere in Scripture. I want you to turn to 2 Peter 1:19 (read). Holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit. Here is the same work of the Holy Spirit, moving men. And out of this moving we have the 66 books of the Bible. Turn to Acts 2:1-4 (read). When the Holy Spirit filled them they were moved. When the Holy Spirit fills us we are moved. Then turn to 4:31. The place where they were assembled was shaken. And they were filled with the Spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness. What keeps us tied? What keeps us shy? But not only did the Holy Spirit move on the first day of creation, He has been on the move ever since. And do you know what I'm waiting for? I'm waiting for Him to shake TEC. We need it. In order to move out where there are people who need to know. And then we will become bold witnesses for God. Well, on the first day of creation, I understand the waters and everything on earth was kept here by the moving of the Holy Spirit on the face of the deep.

2. Creation of light (1:3-4)  
a. Who created it

So let us consider now, Genesis 1:3 (read). In Genesis 1:1 we meet God the Father. In Genesis 1:2 we meet God the Holy Spirit and in Genesis 1:3, whom should we expect to meet but God the Son. Do you find Him there? So we have a little lesson in grammar this morning. That may be the last thing you wanted this morning. You were too glad to be done with it in school. So here is a little lesson in grammar. See, I told you a theologian must have a wider knowledge than Bible knowledge. Grammar is a very important thing for a theologian. So here is the lesson. Every verb must have a subject

which will be a noun or pronoun. If it does not have a subject it is not a sentence. In Scripture we find that God is very grammatically accurate. It is amazing how accurate the grammar of Scripture is. I guess it shouldn't surprise us. God wrote it.

Now, verbs have tense voice and mood. The moods of English verbs are the indicative, the imperative and the subjunctive. I'm telling you this so you will know why I am going to say what I'm about to say. Now we want to consider the sentence where God said, "Let there be light." What is the verb? It is *let be*. Now a verb must have a subject. And when you have an imperative verb, which this is, you don't usually have the subject which is usually a pronoun. And what is it here? Yes, it is *you* understood. "You let there be light." Now when you have a pronoun it stands for somebody. Who does it stand for here? Jesus Christ. I wonder if you noticed in the Scriptures that were read this morning who it was that created the earth? The OT does not tell us who this pronoun belongs to. Its only when you come to the NT then you find clearly who it is speaking about (see John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-17). Jesus Christ is the One who made everything.

Now I'd like you to notice something in verse 17. Scientists are very puzzled. They do not know what keeps the atom and everything else together. Technically it should all fly apart. I forget the term but they call it the unknown something. The unknown factor or something like that. They don't know what holds everything together. By scientific laws it seems that everything should fly apart. This passage tells us what holds everything together. "By Him, all things consist." The Greek word for consist is holds together. And when He redoes the world, Jesus Christ is going to destroy this world. And what the Scripture says there is He just lets go. Loosed, is the word for destroy there. So, by Him all things consist. Not only did He create

all things, but by Him all things stay where they are supposed to stay.

b. How it was created

So who created the light? Genesis 1:3. Well, it was Jesus Christ. Well how was it created? Let me make one other point here. Let me first ask a question. Is it right to say, God created the world, or is it right to say Jesus created the world? Which is right? Both? Yes, that is correct. The Bible says God created the world and it says Jesus created the world. The Bible says God created everything and the Bible says Jesus created everything. We say, who actually did it? So we say, "It doesn't really matter because they are both God." But it does matter. Let me give you an illustration this morning. Let's say that LaCrete Sawmills hired you to log a certain section of timber. You're logging company is Buffalo Head Logging company. So they hire you to log this timber. Then five years later somebody comes along and says, "Who logged this section?" Who would you say? You say you did it. Now someone asks your neighbour and he says LaCrete Sawmills logged it. Now did LaCrete Sawmills log that section of timber? Well yes they did. Did you log it? Yes you did. You see, they did it through you. That is exactly what Colossians says. God did it through Jesus Christ. By Him everything was made. Yes it is correct to say God created the world. He did it meditately by Jesus Christ.

Now there is so much theology in the first chapters of Genesis. They are simply loaded. Listen to these words, "And God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light." We can learn something else that is profound from these words. God ordered who? Jesus. That is always the way it is in Scripture. Jesus never orders God. It's the order of the Triune God. God sent Jesus into this world. Now you don't send your boss around do you? That is not kosher. But who sent the Holy Spirit? Jesus did. There is the order: God, Jesus and the

Holy Spirit. Now there is a very big lesson for our marriage world today. Would you say there is inequality in the Triune God because one sends the other? You can't. As a matter of fact you can go to Philippians 2 and prove the exact opposite. They are equal. Jesus Christ is everything that God is. They are equal. So you see, because you have an order like this does not mean one is worth less than the other or that one is not as good as the other or that one is better than the other. They're roles are not the same. Their equality is the same.

Listen ladies, our present world has done great injustice to ladies through this. They said because you don't do what the man does your worth less. Oh that is such nonsense. I don't know why the Christian world has swallowed it. Now our women want to do everything the men do. I say, "Give it up. It's not your role." It's a difference of roles not value. We learn that from this passage. God told Jesus what to do but that does not mean He is worth less. And when you come to the marriage relationship you have the teaching of submission. It does not make one worth less than the other. It's roles that are in question, not worth. This is a very important lesson right here in this verse. So the divine order in the marriage relationship is that the woman is to be submissive to man and it has absolutely zero to do with worth.

c. What state it was in

Well, we're going to move on here. What state was the light in? When God created the world was formless and void and darkness was upon it. He didn't say it was good. Now we come to the light and we want to see what state it was in. It says, "God saw the light that it was good." Let me ask you, what made the light good? You say, "Don't ask questions like this" right? What made it good. One of the big philosophical questions that this world has asked and has never answered and never will is

this, "What is good?" Now if you have never thought about it, I encourage you to do so. One cannot appreciate the complexity of that question unless you put yourself into their shoes and ask this question. Because when you do that, you can't answer it. That is why we have some of our modern art considered as good. You take a can of paint, put it through a jet motor and the picture is said to be good. That is because there is no standard of measurement for what is good. You see, if you sell something to somebody and they say, "How much does it weigh?" You can tell them. If you have something and you ask is it good or is it bad you have to have something to measure it by. And what is the standard of measurement? Well, there is only one standard of measurement. You find it in Matthew 19:17. A man came to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said, "Why do you call me good. You would only call me good if you recognized that I am God because there is only one that is good and that is God." God is the standard of measurement for "good". If you don't know God you have no standard. That is why they can't come up with any views that are solid. The view that is in today is out tomorrow and the one that's in tomorrow is out the next day. That is how it is in the secular world. There are no answers to this question.

Now I want to give you a definition for "good". Write it down. You won't find it in all the secular books in the world. "Good is anything that is in line with the will and character of God." If it does not match this, it's not good. Its that simple. When God said that the light was good, it was in line with the will and character of God. When God made the heavens and the earth on the first day, He does not say it was good. You know why not. He did not say it was good, why not? It still needed to be changed. But when He created the light it never needed changing. It always has been the same ever since. And it has been same but the earth has changed. But when He changed

it He said it was very good. The word good is used 7 times in Genesis one. What was meant when God said the light was good? Well, God had made the earth ultimately for the habitation of man. Now look at the condition of the earth in verse two. It is anything but habitable. Everything from this point on will be to make it habitable for the central purpose of God's creation, and that is man. When God made light He said it is good. It would suit man well. As a matter of fact, it was so good, God has never changed it. It has always been the same. The principles that govern light have always been the same.

CONCL: I want to close this message by drawing some principles from this message. Principle 1: Darkness comes before light. Did you see it in Scripture. God created the earth and darkness was upon the face of the earth. And then He said, "Let there be light." It was so in the day of creation, it will be so in the day of the Lord. In the day of the Lord comes the seven year tribulation and then comes the day, the millennium. Read the book of Joel for the day of the Lord. Then comes the day of salvation. In the day of salvation there is first the darkness and then the light. You see, when a person is not saved, he is in darkness. That is the truth. Some of you will remember Hank Williams singing, "I saw the light." You see, darkness precedes the light. Now there comes in personal experience as well, night and day. You may be a Christian this morning and you may say, "Brother Phil, you do not know my life. Everything is in a shambles. Everything is dark. Sometimes I do not even feel like I'm a Christian." That is the night of God's testing. I want to encourage you with the words of the Isaiah. He says, "Watchman, what of the night?" Do you know what the answer of the watchman was? "The morning cometh." Maybe you are here this morning and loaded with something heavy. There is something in your life through which you cannot see. It all looks dark. It's heavy and dark. I want to encourage you with something this morning. Hang on. The light cometh.

Principle 2: Before light comes, the Holy Spirit must move or shake us. If we are unsaved, it waits for a time for the Holy Spirit to shake us. Maybe the HS has shaken you several times and you resisted. It can be that way. I want to warn you about that. God says in Genesis, "My Spirit

will not always strive with man." There comes a day when it is too late and there is no more shaking.

Principle 3: God commanded Jesus to make the light and immediately there was light. Jesus was obedient to God.

Philippians says he was obedient even to the death of the cross. You see, when the Bible says it, I do it.

Principle 4: Is your life good? We say, "How are you." And we answer, "Good." What does that mean, "I'm good." Jesus said there is none good but one, and that is God. If I say I am good, that means my life is in line with the will and character of God. Is your life in line with the will and character of God?