

GENESIS 1-3
Message 5

INTRO: Genesis 1:1-5 (read). We're looking this morning at verses 4-5. We've noted a number of things so far. We saw the Trinity implied in at least two different ways in these early verses of creation. And we are continuing our studies on the light. God created the light. What did God create first again? The heavens and the earth and then light. We said in our last message that God created the light mediately, not immediately. That is, He created the light through Jesus Christ. So they both created the light. Jesus Christ directly, God indirectly. We also considered the state of light after it was created. The state of light was good. Now God did not say that about the heavens and the earth, when He had created them. But He said that about the light when He created it.

Now I mentioned last time, when it comes to the topic of *good*, this is one of the big areas for philosophers. What is good? This has been debated for thousands of years and they still do not know. It still keeps changing and it always will until they find God. And then the answer comes as to what is good. What is the definition of good? Yes, that which lines up with the perfect will and character of God, that is good. Remember, the rich young ruler who came to Jesus. He said, "Good master, what good thing shall I do that I might inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said, "Why do you call Me good? There is none good but God." There's our rule, our measurement for what is good.

Let me ask you one further question here, in review. Why did God not call the heavens and the earth good when they were created? We gave at least an effort to answer that question. They still needed changing. From there on He began to change it until He had what He wanted. When He created the light, He called it good because it was finished. It never changed again.

d. What was done to the light

Now let's continue to consider the creation of light. God said, "Let there be light, and there was light. And God saw the light that it was good and God divided the light from the darkness and God called the light day and the darkness He called light. So the evening and

the morning were the first day." We're considering first what was done to the light. It tells us here that God divided the light from the darkness. Now I can't read past that and not ask, "What does it mean? God divided the light from the darkness?" What does it mean. I checked the commentaries and they were strangely silent on this matter. You know when the commentators fall silent it is either insignificant or they don't know. They don't have any opinions. I don't know which it is, but the question is this: What does it mean, God divided the light from the darkness?

I thought about that. I do not know if I have the answer to that, but remember that at this time there was no sun, no moon, no stars, no planets; just the earth and the expanse. There was no light source. And it says God made the light. Now what did He make? It wasn't the sun. The sun didn't exist yet. And then it tells us after He created the light He divided the light from the darkness. Well, the possibility that suggests itself to me is that God first made a light source. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says that God commanded the light to shine out of darkness. The light shone out of darkness. That tells me that this light source was within the created universe. It wasn't something from beyond. It was within the created universe. Because it did not shine through the expanse, it came from within this expanse, so it was something God created within the universe. And He commanded it to shine out of darkness.

Possibly the light was like water. It ran around everything and it filled in wherever it went. That is possible. So if you have that kind of light, it would expel darkness but for where the light could not run around. Just a possibility. So God said He would divide the light from the darkness and He set in motion that light must obey this law: it can only emanate directly from the source, straight away from the source. That way, if something stands in the way, it is dark on the other

side. You see, if that were the case, if He hadn't done that, there wouldn't be day and night. And now there was day and night. Now the separation of light from darkness is the first of three separations in creation. The light was separated from the darkness (v. 4). The atmosphere was divided from the water (v. 7), and the land was divided from the seas (v. 9). Three great separations here in Genesis 1.

e. How light was contrasted to darkness

Well, we want to look for a moment at how light was contrasted to darkness. In verse 5 the light and darkness are contrasted. In verse 4 the light and darkness are contrasted by description, by the adjective *good*. The light is called good. Darkness is never called good that I know except with the possibility in the end God saw everything and called it all good. That is a possibility. Otherwise darkness is not called good. When we come to verse 5 we find light and darkness contrasted in that light is called day and darkness is called night. Now we take these all for granted because its always been like that. But God did this here in creation.

Darkness and night are often associated with good and evil. While light and daytime are associated with good. I'd like you to turn to John 3 for a moment (3:20-21). Consider these verses in light of your own life. Jesus is compared to light. When our deeds are evil we like darkness. Why do we like darkness then? Because it hides. You can hide things. If we want to do evil, we don't like the light. It exposes. Usually when we want to steal or such like, we choose the darkness. We don't want to be seen to be doing bad deeds. When we do good we're not afraid to be seen. It is when we do bad that we're afraid to be seen (verse 20). You may be here this morning and you may not be a Christian. You may not even know where you go if you die. And you don't like it when exposure comes. I want you to turn now to Ephesians 5:13 (read). How do you expose

things in darkness? Well, just turn the light on. Sometimes you may feel that the preacher is pointing at you. He is not. But when light comes and we're in darkness, we want to hide. We don't want to be seen. That is how it is. We don't like the light when we live in darkness. There is an easy way to take care of that. Just do right. Do what God wants and that will take care of that matter.

Well, back to Genesis 1. We want to look at the various uses of the word day. Look at verse 5. Two uses of the word day. God called the light day and the darkness He called night, so the evening and the morning were the first day. Now if you did some careful observation of that verse, you would discover that the first word day and the second do not talk about the same thing. I want to mention several uses of the word day, and I'm doing it for a very specific purpose. What God is talking about here is important for us to understand because people have made misinterpretations on the word day and have fallen into an unbiblical view regarding creation. The word day had one common denominator. In all its uses it is a period of time. Now the length of that time is determined by the context of its use. And one must always take its use in the context. Someone has said, "A text without a context is a pretext." We must always take it in context.

So it refers to a period of time. This period of time may range from 12 hours to 1000 years. It may have various different uses. So let's look at the use of this word day. It may refer to the light part of the day. The time when it is light. You know how it is here at Tompkins Landing. At this time of year we have light almost 24 hours of the day. In the winter time, it becomes 6-7 hours. So our day length changes. But the day time is still the day time. That is one use of the word day. Turn to John 11:9 to see this use in the Bible. Well, in Israel that is how it is. There are about 12 hours in a day. Here we might say are there

not 23 hours in the day. We have longer days here. But in the winter we might say are there not 6 or 7 hours in a day. We're talking now about the light part of the day.

Then it may refer to the light and the dark time. Both. Now we have a 24 hour time period. In this sense there are 7 days in a week. Now look at verse 5. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. The first word day, refers to the light part of the day. Now look at the rest. And the evening and the morning were the first day. Now we have the 24 hour period. Now this time period does not change from here to Israel or the equator, whereas the light part does change. That is another use of the word day, both used in the same verse. Then it may refer to the life-time of a certain person. Jesus said of Abraham, "He rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it and was glad." He was talking about Abraham. He looked from way over there and saw my day. Well, what did he see? He saw the day of Jesus Christ, His life here on earth. We may talk about our grandfather's day. "In Grampa's day they did things like this." Well, we're talking about his life-time. That is another use of the word day.

Now it may refer to a time-period in which something is accomplished. That's referred to as a day. The time period in which something is accomplished. Turn to Genesis 2:4, to see this in this verse. There we have the day of the creation week referred to. And this day is six days long. That is something being accomplished in a time period. Now that's a shorter time period. There is a time period known in the Bible as the day of the Lord. Joel is the most famous book for speaking about the day of the Lord. Does anyone here know how long the day of the Lord is? Yes, 1000 years plus seven. Yes, that is the day of the Lord. And this day has a night time, its almost like living at Tompkins Landing, it has a night time that is seven years long and a light time that is 1000 years long. It has the

darkness and the light. It has the darkest darkness this world has ever seen. I want to remind you this morning, that we are very, very close to the darkest time this world has even known.

I don't know if you are watching what is happening in the Middle East. My friends, I want to warn you this morning, we are very close to the darkest time this world has ever known. It's the night time of the day of the Lord. It will be seven years long, precisely. It will give way to the light time of the day of the Lord, which will be the brightest time this world has ever known. It's just over the horizon from us. It's just ahead of us.

Now from these uses of the word day, we can determine in Genesis 1:5, God called the light day; that He is talking about the day time of the day. Then the second part, the evening and the morning were the first day, refers to the 24 hour time period. Here is where the error creeps in to church doctrine. There is a teaching abroad, and you may come across it in your reading, called the day age theory. As a matter of fact, it's not even outside our community. It's here. The day age theory is this: it says a day can be longer than 24 hours, and the six days of creation were longer than 24 hours. As a matter of fact one day was 7 billion years long and the next was 69 billion and so on. Each day varied in length because it refers to a time period. Well, that is correct, it does refer to a time period but the context must be considered. And if you consider the context you cannot make it mean a day age. Six times over we have it in Genesis one. So what this does, it allows for evolution on this hand and Christianity in this one. It is a bowing and a worshipping at the shrine of evolution. My friends, you do not need to do that. No matter how big their facts seem to be, just go with the truth. It will always come out in the wash. In the end you will find out it took God seven days.

Someone has said to the little girl, it took God seven days to create everything. And she said, "How come it took Him so long?" God could have done it in less time. He took seven days because it is significant. He is teaching us through these seven days. That is the reason I am teaching us about the word day and the error of this use, so that when you read materials of the day age theory, you will understand it is erroneous teaching. It is a text taken out of context and becoming a pretext.

3. Conclusion of Day One

Well, we want to concluded day one in verse 5. "So the evening and the morning were the first day." Here's a sentence that will be repeated 7 times exactly the same except for the number. (v. 5, 8, 13, etc...) Now notice carefully the word day here is a 24 hour time period. When did God create His creation, at night or during the day? In the evening. So He began creating things at night. Well, when else could He begin. There was no light. Maybe that is why the world was tohu wabohu, without form and void. He did it in the night. No, for God Scripture tells us, the night and the light are the same to God. Well, He began in the evening. Now what did God create at night? Yes, the heavens and the earth. So during the first night He made the heavens and the earth.

So from those questions, let me ask, "When does the day begin?" Midnight? That is Gentile right? Does it begin at midnight? No, it begins in the evening. Look at it in our verse. If you go to Israel or observe our Seventh Day Adventist friends, their day ends Friday when the Sun goes down. The next day begins there in the evening. Every day begins in the evening. You see, everything began in the dark. The midnight was generated later on. God did not begin at midnight, He began in the evening. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Now the commentaries may say, "In Hebrew thinking, the day begins in the evening." No, it is not Hebrew thinking. It was not the Hebrews that began creation, it was

God. The day begins in the evening. Now if we're a little mixed up about that, I'm sure God will overlook that.

All right. So here we have the first sentence of seven that begins like this, "and the evening and the morning." Now, darkness exists by nature. To change that, energy must be exerted. The state of light is a state of constant energy. If you have these little calculators that tap into the energy of light you know what happens when it gets a little too dark. The calculator goes off. These little calculators will tap into the energy that is in the light. Light is a constant source of energy. Darkness is an energy-less state. You can't tap into the darkness for use of something profitable. Not that I know. Furthermore, light is not a natural state. Light is not first. Darkness is first and then comes the light. This is a principle we're going to look at in a moment. Every day begins in the evening, but the night gives way to the light. The natural gives way to the unnatural. That is a principle that goes on throughout the Christian life. So as soon as the sun disappears the night begins and the earth is in an energy-less and natural state. As soon as the sun appears again, energy pours out over the earth and the day time of the day has come.

The priest of the old system would be watching for the first tip of the sun to come out and then he would blow the horn. So when the sun comes the day has come. For the evening and the morning were the first day. The evening is representative of the whole night period and the morning of the whole light period. That is why evening and morning are one day. Revelation 22:5 tells us that in the new Jerusalem there is no need for the sun. It does not say there will be no sun, it just says there is no need for it because God and Jesus Christ are there and they are the source of light in the new Jerusalem.

CONCL: I want to conclude this morning with several principles from this passage. 1. God commanded the light to shine out of darkness. God is still in that business today. At your work place. Wherever you may be, God commands the

light to shine out of darkness. You being the light. You see, you were once darkness too. And then the light came. And then He commands the light to shine out of darkness. So He is still in the business today. Turn to Philippians 2:14-16 (read). God wants us to be lights in the world. How are you at the work place? How is it in your home? God is still in the business of commanding the light to shine out of darkness.

2. God made three major separations in Genesis 1. The first is the separation of light from darkness. God is still in the business of separating light from darkness. How is it in your life? Are there things that are not right? God is in the business of separating that. He wants to do it in our life like worldliness (see 2 Cor. 6:14-). Has God separated you from the darkness? You see, when you turn the light on the darkness has to go. This Scripture tells us there should be a separation.

3. A full day requires darkness and light. In a full day, there is darkness and there is light. First comes the night. Maybe you are here this morning and you have never accepted Christ as Saviour. That is where we all begin. We all begin in the night. It's a time of darkness. And then comes the light when we accept Christ. That is how it is in the day of salvation. That is how it is in the day of personal experience. Maybe you are in some dark difficulty of life. Let me give you this encouragement. First comes the night and then comes the light. There may be a time of some great tragedy or loss, or sickness, or family problems. It's a night time of experience. Let me encourage you this morning. First comes the night, then comes the light. It's coming.