

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-26 & 2:4-15

Lord's Day 3.6-7 #1

Singing

15:1-3 – 37:1-4 – 287:1-3 – 144:1, 3, 4, 5

Consider: *Were the good old days really that good as we are told?*

A. Yet if we go back long enough, we find *old days* which we **only good**

1. Genesis 1-2 chronicles what was *very good* (Gen. 1:31)

2. Why look at the details of those good days?

a. to alert us to the **evil** we did to God and His work

b. to make you pay attention to Gospel of Christ

● through Him restoration isn't only possible: *it is certain!*

● yet that restoration didn't come through a *re-do of Gen 1-2*

THE GLORY OF OUR BEGINNING (1)

I. The glory of our living space II. The glory of our being

III. The glory of our relationships

I. The glory of our Living Space

A. Gen 1-2 records the creation of heaven and earth' (Ps. 33:6)

1. It tells the story of God's goodness in preparing us a 'earthly home'

a. every day unfolds more details of His goodness

b. within the glory of the earth, He planted the garden of Eden (2:8-14)

2. This ideal world was not a place of *idleness: serious & exciting work!*

a. God made Adam *the steward of the Garden* (2:15)

b. God also gave mankind its first *commission* (1:28; 9:1-11)

3. In this perfect world, no **need** existed (Is. 51:3)

B. Ponder the great contrast of *then and now*

1. Romans 8:19-22: *whole creation groans and travails in pain together*

a. why is this the reality of our world?

b. who is responsible for this bondage of corruption? (Rom. 8:20)

2. Yet in this pain there is perspective of hope (Rom. 8:21-22)

3. Pray God to fasten this *truth upon our minds so it pricks our conscience*

CLOSING OBSERVATIONS ...

A. WE turned *our beautiful living space* into a *massive cemetery*.

1. Don't get fooled by fact that pretty flowers – trees grow on a cemetery!

a. why are there still flowers and trees growing? (Ps. 104:24)

b. do we hear God's message despite our guilt?

2. Don't get frustrated with the 'thorns & thistles & travail' (Gen. 3:16-19)

a. read the fine print on every particle of dust: Gal. 6:7-8

3. Don't get idolatrous about all the stuff in the here and now

a. hide 1 Cor 7:29-31 in your heart

B. Look to God's matchless Prince of Life!

1. There is hope for this cursed earth (2 Peter 3:11-13 - Rev. 21:1 - Is 11:6-11)

2. But that hope is only for those *who are in Christ* (2 Peter 3:14)

SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER AND PRAY OVER THIS WEEK

1. Poet of Ps. 36 noted that the LORD preserves man *and beast*. Seek other verses in which God shows His care and compassion to His entire creation, besides us humans. What are we to learn or what are we to repent of in that regard?

2. Pray over the truth spoken by John Flavel: *Christ is not sweet till sin is made bitter to us.*