

At Work With God-Part 2: Study Notes

Sermon Notes:

last week we talked about how God's ultimate desire for us is relationship with him, but at the same time He has a plan and purpose. He has work to do that he wants us involved in. Not just in the future, but right now our work is important.

Our understanding of the past and our view of the future affects our now

We look to the future and what God has for us is very bright, but how do we get there? This has been debated over the centuries and today we will look at three different views.

Evolutionary View: in many ways started with the Enlightenment several hundred years ago as the scientific method became front and centre, which helped produce all the technological, scientific and medical progress we see today.

For many Christians this led to a belief that for the world to move forward. For it to become what God intended it to become we just needed to make it happen. God gave all the responsibility over to us. Understand his principles and move it forward.

For many Christians they adopted this believing that the world would slowly evolve until it reflected the full glory of God. A sort of humanistic view.

Evacuation View: the world was a beautiful place that god originally made, but that it is kind of like the sinking Titanic. God will eventually abandon this world that we call our home and make a brand new one. There is nothing worth saving in this life except the souls of human kind.

I think there are serious problems with both of these views.

Evolution: hope is found in human ability to improve the world. (God is distant)

Evacuation: hope is found in escape, so much of the here and now is useless.

Resurrection View: Jesus way was different. He came to cultivate a living hope among us today. God took on flesh and in a metaphorical way started to bring a heavenly garden that could be experienced in our wilderness of today. He started to bring heaven to earth in little snippets for us to experience. a small view of the future

Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Passage: Romans 8:18-23

In many ways we are called like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and work with God to see his Character and ways established here on earth as it is in heaven. Waiting for it to come to full realization.

Discontinuity: because anything that is inconsistent with God's character and plan will be destroyed in the age to come

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Continuity: the things of this world that are consistent with God's character and plan will endure.

Our efforts to live out God's kingdom by cultivating order, beauty, and abundance matter both for now and eternity.

But what does that look like for me? Where do I focus my time and energy? Next week we will turn our attention to an age old word once considered important by the church, but has since been ignored. It is the word vocation.

Life Group Discussion

(feel free to use any or all of these questions)

Warm Up:

1. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up and why?
2. Would you describe yourself as someone who believes humanity is gradually improving or steadily declining? Share your reasons

Study & Discussion:

Read together: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

-What is something that sticks out to you about this verse?

-In verse 25 it says that Jesus will eventually put all his enemies under his feet. From looking at this verse who or what are his enemies?

-Thinking back to God's original intent for humanity, in what ways did Jesus fulfill Adam's original purpose?

Read together: Romans 8:18-23

-If God is interested in redeeming our bodies and this earth, not simply taking souls to a non-physical heaven, what are the implications for the way Christians live? How does this change the way we think about our purpose?

-If God is going to redeem this earth rather than just destroy it, what do you think might endure from the present age for eternity? What will not endure? Does this change how you have thought or were taught in the past about the future?

Prayer:

1. Pray for each others individual needs? Also.....
2. Is there someone outside the group you would like prayer for?