

In the beginning God...

Genesis 1: 1 – 3

1) God is the originator of everything

- God is the beginning – the source – of everything
- He is the only one who can make something out of nothing.
- There are a couple of schools of thought on what it means that God created everything out of nothing.
 - Ex nihilo is the idea that God had absolutely no substance to work with. He created all things, including the raw materials from which all things are made.
 - The other idea is that God took what was nothing in the sense that it was a heap of junk and He made something good out of it. He organised the disorganised.
- I'm not going to argue these points here except to say that I believe that God can, and does, do both.
 - He takes nothing and makes something of it. Whatever that nothing may be.
- What we are really talking about is the absolute sovereignty of God.
 - God who is omnipotent – He has the power to do all things.
 - God who is omniscient – He knows all things.
 - God who is omnipresent – He is present in all places at the same time. He pervades the whole universe.
- As we start this new church we know that God has already seen what we haven't seen.
- Jesus said, in Matthew 16: 18, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."
- We might think that it's our idea to start a church, to gather together to study His word and pray, to worship Him. But it's not. It was His idea all along. It was Him who initiated His plan using His people who He called.
- We're living in a world in turmoil and when we look around we see brokenness and strife and we often wish it could be fixed.
- Then in our personal lives we are often distraught as we face difficult circumstances and wonder if anything can come out of them.
- But then we need to remember that God makes something out of nothing.
- Even if we give him our brokenness, whatever it may be, He has made more out of less than that.
- We need to give our broken communities to Him to make something out of nothing.

2) God is at work in unexpected places

- The earth was formless and void ...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- The Spirit of God was active within the creation process. He was there moving – hovering – over the surface of the waters – over that which was formless, empty and dark.
- Isn't that what our world, our communities and sometimes our lives often look like – formless, empty and dark?
- We can get quite depressed with such scenarios if we focus our attention on them.

- The question that is normally asked within such times of distress, chaos and confusion is: “Where is God in all this?”
 - Some years ago friends of ours lost their daughter – in her twenties – in an accident. It was a tragic blow that left them devastated. When asked how he’s doing his response was: When you can’t see the hand of God you have to trust His heart. This was a quote by Emily Freeman
- It’s easy to get angry at God, to question him when things don’t turn out the way they should but look at Job who trusted him although everything except his life had been stripped from him.
 - He was a man who realised that all things came from God and that God had the sovereign power to remove all things if He so wished and still be right in all He does.
- God is at work in places that we don’t expect Him to be at work
 - We see chaos
 - The Spirit of God hovers over the chaos
 - We see emptiness
 - The Spirit of God hovers over the emptiness
 - We see darkness – wickedness
 - The Spirit of God hovers over that darkness

3) How do we fit into what God is doing?

- Trust Him who is able to do more than we can think or imagine.
 - **George Muller said:** The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.”
- Look to Him, when we can’t see His hand, who is at work even when we don’t realise it.
 - God is at work in the person who you are praying for, in your work situation or your unemployment situation, in your finances, in your marriages and families.
 - God is at work in our community, in the midst of crime, drugs and alcohol problems.
- Hold onto Him who has made all things including you and will never let you out of the palm of His hand.
 - When you feel weak and that you can’t go on remember that His grace is sufficient for you. Just hold onto Him because He’s got you.
- We don’t know what the future holds but we hold onto Him who holds the future.
 - Your future may seem bleak and insecure but our hope isn’t in what we can see but in Him who knows what we don’t.
 - We don’t know the future of this church but we trust Him because it isn’t ours but His.

Remember that He who is the originator of all things, objective and subjective, is also the sustainer of all things.

- John 1: 1 – 3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
- Hebrews 1: 3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.