SESSION 9

Read Genesis 1:31 – 2:3

❶ In a world that was "very good" God rests. What does it mean that God set aside the seventh day as a holy day of rest?

❷ While we've discussed this before, what is the implication verse 31 when we are told that God surveyed creation and beheld that it was "very good"?

➤ *The difference between how modern society uses the word good and how God uses the word good is staggering. In our day and age, it's not uncommon to hear good being used to describe a new craft beer or an entertaining sitcom or the latest pithy tweet by a celebrity. However, the biblical use of the Hebrew word tov (good) does not mean merely 'pleasant' or 'pleasurable'. It means capable of, or presently engaged in the process of, or destined for completely fulfilling the Divine purpose for which it was created.*

   GENESIS 50:20
   And you, you intended evil against me, but God intended it for good [tov], in order to keep a great many people alive.

   PSALM 23:6
   Goodness [tov] and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

Read Genesis 2:4-14

❸ How was man's creation different from that of the animals?

   PSALM 42:1
   As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul [nephesh] for you, O God.

❹ In the order of Confession and Absolution in the old liturgy of the church (TLH page 5 & 15) the pastor would begin by saying, "Our help is in the name of the Lord," and the congregation would respond with, "who made heaven and earth." It is a plea from Psalm 124. But it prompts a question: Why are we invoking help from God as Creator rather than as Savior?

❸ The date was May 28, 2016. The headline read: *17-year-old male shot dead by authorities after attempts made to kill a 3-year-old.* Such a could be a headline in any newspaper from any city

across the country. But there are a couple of surprises in this story. The first is that the 17-year-old male is actually a _____ the three year old a _____ . The second surprise is that many people across the nation condemned this shooting despite the fact that child's life was endangered. How does a understanding of how God created man and animals help us address this issue rightly?   And if we, as a society, can't find moral consensus on the value of human life, even when faced with such a seemingly black and white scenario, then what implications does this have for how our society regards the most vulnerable persons, the elderly and the unborn?

> *Perhaps we need a good understanding of what we believe defines a "PERSON." And there are a lot of ideas out there…*
> *Option 1:* Some argue that a "person" is any entity that has value, can be in an interactive relationship, and who is loved. So, if I love my pet gorilla and can interact with my pet gorilla in some type of relationship, then this gorilla can seem more a person to me than someone I don't know or never interact with. Such thinking informs the so called "Interpersonal Theories of Personhood," of which there are many. What are the dangers in such thinking?
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> *Option 2:* "Persons" are those who have certain characteristics. This is the attitude of most utilitarian philosophers and the attitude of secular Americans. The chief characteristic is most often cited is "thinking" (or sentience). Ironically, the ones who advocate for this the most are often those who consider themselves to be among the most intelligent, which seems a bit self-serving. There are some obvious problems with defining personhood this way. What are some?
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> *Option 3:* All human beings are "persons." Why? Because all human beings have been created in the image of God no matter their state of development and no matter any handicap or disability. This is what separates a 3-year-old boy, who bears the image of God, from a 17-year-old gorilla, who does not!

6 Describe what the earth was like before God created Adam.