God is the King of the Kingdom He Created

Lesson for Sunday, February 12, 2023

VERSE: GENESIS 1:31

INTRODUCTION:

* Today we begin a new series that will take us through the timeline of the Bible in 16 verses.
* Challenge your class to strive for perfect attendance for these 16 weeks.
* Another challenge: As we go through a verse a week, work to memorize the verse! (Maybe together as a class?)
* Today we start where time began in Genesis 1. Our verse is verse 31. Read it together as a class.
* A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
* Our view of the world begins with our view of God. *The way we think about God shapes the way we think about everything else*, along with the way we act and respond to every circumstance.
* Because of this, we need to get our thoughts about God straight at the beginning of our study.
* The Bible begins and ends with God. He is the Author of the Bible and the Hero of every story found in it, so it is only natural that we start our study with Him.
* What do we learn about God in Genesis 1:31?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Creation Reveals the Authority of God
	1. At first glance, Genesis 1 doesn’t seem to give us much information about God. It seems more focused on creation, with the existence of God more or less assumed.
	2. Don’t miss the fact that the authority of God is front and center.
		1. He speaks, and things happen!
		2. ILL: Remember the old EF Hutton commercials?
		3. Things not only happen – they happen quickly!
	3. The creation story can be summarized: God made everything, and everything He made was good.
		1. He made everything by speaking. He spoke, and creation obeyed.
		2. Creation obeyed by coming into being, by sprouting every living thing, and showing submission to God’s sovereign power.
		3. The emphasis of Genesis 1 is the ease with which God spoke the world into being and the harmony that existed between Creator and creation.
	4. At the very beginning, we meet a God whose creative power and authority extend to every part of the universe.
2. Creation Heard the Proclamation of God
	1. When God had finished making everything, God looked at it all and saw that it was “very good.” Notice that it was God who pronounced the verdict.
	2. This is kind of surprising if we think about it. When we look around the world, it doesn’t seem “very good.” Everything is decaying, everyone is fighting, and no one seems to know how to fix anything.
	3. How could God say this? We need to understand the phrase in its context.
		1. First, we can see that God’s declaration applied to *everything* that He had made. In the beginning, every part of creation was good.
		2. Second, not only was creation good, it was *very* good. God was saying that creation was everything He intended it to be.
		3. Third, God was proclaiming that His creation was doing what He wanted it to do. The trees were growing, fish were swimming, and humans were relating to each other, the creation and their Creator just as He intended. God’s kingdom was in perfect harmony with its King.
3. Creation Points to the Goodness of God
	1. While we are well aware that Genesis 3 is right around the corner, it is still plain to see that God’s creation still reflects His mighty power today.
		1. ILL: Think about the most beautiful place you have ever visited. Those places remind us that God’s creation can still be very good.
		2. Look at Psalm 104. In this psalm we see that the earth, the sky, and the ocean, along with all they contain, continue to reflect His creative power and authority. Verse 27 reminds that “these wait all on Thee.”
		3. God’s kingdom still looks to Him and depends on Him, just as it has from the very beginning.
	2. It’s important that we insist on the ongoing goodness of God’s creation.
		1. Look at 1 Timothy 4:4 – “For every creature [creation] of God is good.”
		2. Notice Paul does not say “some” or “most.” He doesn’t say it “was” good.”
		3. Paul affirms that God’s entire creation is still good.
	3. At the same time, we must not forget that the world is not an end in and of itself. This is where pantheists and environmentalists often go wrong.
		1. We cannot speak of the creation apart from the God who made it – and who not only made it, but also has authority over it and upholds it by His sovereign power.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION:

* Discuss: What does creation teach us about God?
	+ All-powerful, Creative, God of Order, etc.
	+ How should these thoughts impact our lives?
	+ Not only is creation good, it is for our good!
* Discuss: What does Genesis 1:1 teach us about God?
	+ Eternal, All-Powerful, the Creator, *we are accountable to Him!*
* Discuss: Why does the world concentrate so much of its attack on Genesis 1?
	+ Genesis 1 establishes God as the King of all creation. He is in charge.
	+ This is His world and we are just living in it!
	+ Most do not want a King in their life; they want to be King.
	+ If God doesn’t exist, then I am not accountable to anyone but myself.