

Home Group study: week beginning 23rd March 2020

Staying in touch with God: Creation

If you're looking at these notes in daylight take a few minutes look out of the window. What can you see of God's creation? Think about how the things you can see reflect the character and glory of God. If there's nothing to look at, contemplate the sky and reflect on the sheer size of it. Or, at the other end of the scale, how cleverly a blade of grass is made and think of how many there must be in the world! How easy would it be for man to make just one?

If you're meeting as a 'virtual group', share your best experience of creation (a magnificent view, a glorious sunset or sunrise, something of the natural world) and consider what it says about the Creator.

Read: Psalm 19: 1-6

In what ways do the skies 'proclaim the work of his (God's) hands'? (If you're on Facebook there are plenty of nice pictures of skies on the Jubilee Church Family page you could look at to inspire you.) V2 tells us about the skies perpetually speaking and displaying knowledge. How can they do this? What do they tell us and what knowledge do they display?

David, who wrote this Psalm, is clear that the 'words' and knowledge of the sky go out to everyone in the world (vv3,4). Paul takes up a similar theme in Romans. Look at Romans 1: 18-20. What does this tell us about the 'message' the skies, as part of God's creation, is giving the world? Paul goes on to quote v4 of the Psalm in Romans 10: 18. Read vv16-18; what does Paul suggest is the message of the skies?

The second part of v4 is a bit baffling when it suggests God has 'pitched a tent for the sun'. The NIV Study Bible gives some helpful perspective on this. The sun was worshipped by many religions in those days, most famously as the Egyptian sun-god Ra. By pitching a tent for the sun in the heavens, God is showing where the sun really belongs: its home is with him. As his creation, the sun is the reflection of God's glory, not a god itself.

How does the Psalm describe the way the sun comes out? Does that tell us something of glory and the victory of God? Think too about what the last little phrase of v6 tells us about the goodness of God.

Understanding

Dave talked about the way a painter reveals something of his character in his work. The same is true of other sorts of art; literature reveals something of the character of the author, sculptors reveal something of their character in their sculpture. The same is true for more 'modern' forms of art like film and photography. God's creation is not something to be worshipped in itself. Rather it reveals the character and nature of the Creator, our Great God. It does so, as both Psalm 19 v4 and Romans 10 make clear, not just for the believer, but for all mankind.

Application

We need to believe that creation is of God, and to observe it as the reflection of Creator. This is a wonderful time of the year as the trees spring back into life (pun intended!), blossom comes out as a prelude to fruit later in the year, birds gather nesting material, insects hatch out at the right time for young birds to be fed. That it all happens year after year reminds us of the eternal nature of God and that he is still creating before our very eyes. If you're a gardener think of how things you are planting or pruning back now will miraculously spring into life in due season.

Take time each day to observe what you can of Creation. Enjoy Creation for what it is and then be reminded that what you are seeing is a reflection of the one who has created it all. Think about what you see reveals something of God's character and let it reassure you that God is who he says he is.