

Holy Trinity  
June 11, 2017

Text: Genesis 1-2:4a  
Theme: “All Good”

“It’s all good.” You have surely heard that, maybe said it. It’s not always an assessment of the true state of things. It could be a way of coping when things are not all good. There could be some bad, maybe a lot, and this is a way of self-encouragement so one is not so depressed. Such words could also come from the lips of one who is looking to the One who is all good.

Today is His day, Holy Trinity. Isn’t it nice that we give God His own day. Today we remember God is God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. But what do we mean, “we remember?” It’s not that on other Sundays we get confused and suppose perhaps he is biune—God the Father and the Son, or God the Father and the Spirit, or God the Spirit and the Son. No, that’s not it. We remember by repeating what God has revealed of Himself. That’s all that we can do. If we try more we have done less, damaged what He has revealed. Just who is this God who is all good, and how is that good for me; furthermore, how can I do good for God?

We know that all things are not good. Not everything will perform as hoped or hyped. We plant seeds and they don’t all come up. Not all firecrackers are good, some are simply duds, all fire and no cracker. And melons—who would pick up one that looks bad on the outside, but good on the outside is not a guarantee of inside goodness. But God is good. He is as good as His word for that word always works.

So we see in our OT lesson from Genesis 1 and 2. God doesn’t have to repeat Himself. He speaks; it happens, simple at that! “The universe was created by the word of

God, so that what is seen was not made from things that are visible.” (Hebrews 11:4)  
When God speaks even nothing must listen, listens to the tune of becoming something.  
So God says, “let there be light,...let there be an expanse,...let the waters be...  
gathered,...let the earth sprout,...let there be lights,...let the waters swarm,...let the birds  
fly,...let the earth bring forth living creatures,...let us make man in our image.” It all  
happens. Again the Triune God doesn’t have to say it three times or even twice. He  
speaks and it happens, comes to be in those six evening and morning days (normal time).  
Can we get a witness? It is the witness of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Humans are the last of creation. They can only experience and witness the goodness of it  
all. The creation of creation must be revealed.

God’s Word (Scripture) about His work is all good. “God saw that it was good.”  
We read that five times. And then at the end of creation, “it was very good.” (1:31)  
Yes, all good—no bad, none!

But then no good, no good this creature craftiness through the subtle serpent. His  
subtle words will bring results that are anything but subtle. The good had gone bad,  
somewhere, somehow. God the Son will call him the father of lies, a murderer from the  
beginning (John 8:44). He’s a serial killer like no other. He’s about to commit the first.  
He convinces the woman to use the good for bad. The tree of the knowledge of good and  
evil was part of all that was pronounced to be very good. He pointed the woman to the  
“goodness” of doing the bad. The woman took a good longing look judging the tree to be  
good for food, a delight to the eyes, and much to be desired to make one wise (Genesis  
3:6) But to partake of all this “goodness” she must cast aside the good of God’s revealed  
“do not eat.”

Yes, it's the good for the bad. It's sin. Just how good did it taste? Was it worth it? The after taste must have kicked in quickly. No, it was no good at all. On her breath was now the smell of death. No, it was not a subtle difference from before. It was a creation crash. Now the good is corrupted. All is not good. Sin has come into the world through the one man. The man and woman are aware of all the bad around them and maybe more frightfully, the evil within. Now the sound of God coming to the garden is a signal to flee and try to hide. They fear His presence and rightly so. How will these doers of the bad face the One who is good?

The carnage continues. We daily are tempted to use the good for the bad. The good is God's way. He puts it before us in His Word. The bad is our modification, human improvement on the divine design but it never improves. This is true when it comes to our handling of natural resources, substances produced from natural resources, our bodies, our minds, or our relationships with our fellow human beings. But so we are tempted, we self-directed, my way, ultimate knowers of good and evil. And so we can continue on that path we would hide ourselves away from God and His ways. And, brothers and sisters, that is all just no good!

Yet there is good, redemption, restoration, renewal. And that work is all God's, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He does it and He has revealed His doing in the Scripture. The "us" of Genesis 1:26 is made known. From the beginning, from forever always the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. "In the beginning was the Word...all things were made through Him and apart from Him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:1-3) We see in our text, "the Spirit of God hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:2) "In many and various way God spoke to us by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son (Hebrews 1:2)."

The incomprehensible makes Himself known (in part), makes Himself known to those created in His image. He has given us minds to process and envision. He uses language and words to make Himself known that we may have fellowship with Him. From this revealing we learn He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Genesis 1 and 2 are not a systematic exposition of the nature of the Triune God. It puts before us creation and relationships in creation and particularly to the Creator. Genesis 3 is not such an exposition, actually there is no one place in Scripture that would catalog for us the attributes of God. The emphasis in Scripture is God's working on our behalf in creation, redemption, and restoration.

No, no one place, yet the teaching God would have us know is there in the pages of His revelation. We see in our Gospel lesson (Matthew 28:20), "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." In our lesson from Acts 2 we see the Son exalted to the right hand of God and pouring out the Spirit (Acts 2:33). It's there. Now as questionable teachings about God were offered this occasioned the search for and formulation of right expressions of teaching. One result, a big one, is creeds, especially the Nicene and Athanasius Creeds. Would not God's people strive to be faithful to what He has expressed about Himself? Why would we do otherwise?

Consider a little analogy. You probably don't pay that much attention to the composition of the floor here. I could say to you, "this floor is ceramic." You might accept that, but if you treat it as such there could be a bad result. It's not ceramic. It's vinyl, actually luxury vinyl tile. Treat it like ceramic and you may produce some large scratches. Look upon God the Son as created by the Father, not God of God but more godlike, then you have changed the nature of the Savior, lessened the truth of God's love and presented an unreliable redeemer. We look to what God has revealed.

Salvation is all God's work. It has been and will always be so. It was always God's plan to save when the bad corrupted the good, His plan when there was only good, His plan when there was only Him. The plan was to come in person. He didn't leave Adam and Eve shaking in the bushes, didn't desert them to let them eat of the tree of life and live forever with the bad. He speaks already in the Garden of the Seed of the Woman coming to destroy the work of crafty one. And it happens. The Son of God becomes a man and still remains God. He comes in humility not crowing about His divinity. He always and only does good. He overcomes all the temptations of the serpent to do otherwise. "Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again on the third day from the dead...ascended into heaven, He sits at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the quick and the dead."

God does the work and God makes the work known to us. God even works the faith for us to believe the work. He created us. He has redeemed us. He makes us holy. We are made holy in through the faith worked by Holy Spirit in God the Son who was sent by God the Father. Now as new creations we live as His holy ones doing the good that He puts before us to do. It all begins and ends with God.

We began and we will end with God today. We began in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Those words remind us that we were baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, buried with Christ, sins washed away, Spirit given, raised to walk in newness of life. We will end with God as His three fold blessing is put upon us.

Gathered here God has promised to be among us. We want to be with Him, not away from Him. Fear and desire could drive us away, fear of His justice and desire to pursue sin. Paganism seeks to appease the gods, satisfy them enough to leave you be so

you can do what you want to do. But the Christian message is one of longing for God. The fear is taken away as we know He has faced His own justice in Jesus. Now we want to walk in His light. We can't wait for Him to come. We are like Adam and Eve waiting eagerly for His presence in the cool of the evening. So we long for our Lord Jesus to return from the Father.

Yes, there is good for there is God. We trust Him to work all, good or bad, for our eternal good. He is God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier. We thank and praise, serve and obey Him. We live under Him in His kingdom in righteousness, innocence and blessedness. He gives eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen