

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Creation - Genesis 1:3-25

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?

If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?

2. Consider the creation narrative through Genesis 1:25.

What are some indicators in the text that reveal God's divine love and care for what He is creating, particularly for humanity?

How does His intentionality in every aspect of creation encourage us when it comes to purpose in life (for ALL of creation)?

3. How do we maintain unity in the Church in the midst of potentially diverse interpretations of the creation account?

What are some of the challenges/objections to which each of the following positions may be subject:

SIX DAY CREATIONISM - Each of the days of creation in the Genesis narrative are to be understood as literal 24 hour days.

GAP THEORY - A long-time gap in the narrative from Gen. 1:1 - Gen. 1:2

THEISTIC EVOLUTION - God started everything we see, but advanced His creation via evolution.

FRAMEWORK HYPOTHESIS - This is poetic literature & NOT a historical narrative.

PROGRESSIVE DAY-AGE CREATIONISM - Each day of creation represents a long period of time & NOT literal 24 hour days.

What are some concerns you might have about some of the views with which you do NOT agree?

How can we rightly engage in discussions on this topic that might challenge any viewpoints that minimize the Scriptures?

Are any of the above viewpoints actually incompatible with a biblical worldview & the biblical narrative? If so, how?

4. As you consider the means by which God created, how does Mark 4:39-41 mirror and affirm the work of Jesus in creation?

What is the response of creation when The Lord speaks? And how do YOU respond to God's Word/commands in your life?

Are you quick to obey His call (& repent when you disobey) or do you seek to justify your disobedience in some ways?

In consideration of this: do you sense the Holy Spirit's conviction in anything for your disobedience to God's Word?

If so, take the time to confess that, repent, and ask for the strength to move forward in His great grace & power.

5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?

1. **When God speaks, creation responds!**

We should always obey God's Word!

2. **Nothing in God's creation is unintentional!**

All that God makes has a real purpose!

3. **God's love for us is evident in creation!**

We love Him because He first loved us!

4. **God creates for His glory & for our good!**

Living for HIS glory leads to our "good life!"