

GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



5. Works of God

An Introduction

We have learning about God. Let's look now at the work of God the Father. There are 3 main areas we will look at: his work in creation, in providence and in redemption.

CREATION

1. Theories of Creation

There are various theories of how the world was created:

(a) Evolution

This theory says that all forms of life were developed by natural processes over long periods of time. However this theory doesn't adequately explain where life came from.

(b) Pantheism

God and matter are one according to pantheism: God is everything and everything is God. This theory robs God of his power and man of his free will, making God the source of evil in the world.

(c) Creation

The Bible says that God created our universe. True Christianity and science are not opposed to each other, but we need to realise the Bible is not intended to be a scientific textbook.

2. Facts about Creation

(a) A work of the Triune God

- God purposed to create the world. Genesis 1:1
- It came about through the Word, who is Jesus Christ. John 1:3, 10, Colossians 1:16
- And by the action of the Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:2, Job 26:13
- God ordained that creation belong to the Son and that he should uphold it. Hebrews 1:2, 3

(b) Creation is Dependent on God

- Creation depends on God for its existence. Isaiah 44:24
- However God is independent of his creation. Romans 9:5
- God didn't need to create the world, but he chose to by his sovereign will. Revelation 4:11

(c) Purpose of Creation

- The purpose of creation wasn't primarily for man, as God doesn't exist just for man.
- He has made us as spiritual beings, so he could communicate his love to us in a personal relationship. Acts 17:26-27
- Ultimately creation brings glory to God. Isaiah 43:7



*If God has created us for his glory, what difference should this make to the way we live?
Ephesians 1:12, 1 Corinthians 10:31*

PROVIDENCE

We have already seen that God is sovereign over all creation and his sovereignty continues for all time, so that the world reaches God's appointed end. He didn't create the world and leave it to run by itself, but he is concerned for it and controls it. What does his control extend over:-

(a) The Universe

- Nehemiah 9:6, Psalm 103:19, Psalm 135:6

(b) Nature

- Psalm 107:33-36, Jeremiah 31:35

(c) Creatures

- 1 Kings 17:6, Psalm 147:9, Matthew 10:29

(d) Men

- This even includes evil men. God isn't the one who causes evil deeds or is responsible for them, however he can use them to accomplish his purposes, as he is sovereign.
- Judges 2:14-15, Isaiah 5:26, Isaiah 10:5-7, Romans 9:22-23

(e) Nations

- Psalm 75:7, Ezekiel 7:21, Acts 17:26

(f) History

- He allows those things that seem disastrous to bring about his purposes. Psalm 105:16-22, Isaiah 44:28 – 45:4
- The greatest example of this is the cross. Acts 2:23
- In all the events of history God is working out his purpose - that men and women from every nation will be saved. Ephesians 3:3-6, 10-11

(g) Circumstances

- God is in control. Things do not happen 'by chance', even when it appears to be an accident.
- Proverbs 16:33, 1 Kings 22:19-23

(h) Satan

- Satan does have limited power and God has allowed this in order to achieve his purposes.
- However Satan will be conquered. Job 1:12, Revelation 20:7, 10

(i) Affairs of his children

- God works especially on behalf of his children. This doesn't mean nothing bad will happen to us, but what he allows is for our good. Philippians 1:28-29, James 1:2-4
- He promises that everything will work out for our spiritual and eternal good. Romans 8:28



Is there any difference between our belief that God is sovereign, and the belief in fatalism that some other religions believe? Discuss.

If God is in control of everything, why are there wars and suffering? Discuss.



We do not need to be anxious about the future as God is in control. There are no second causes. If we are following him, then all things work together for good. Think about that.

REDEMPTION

We have been speaking about God's plan, which he decreed from the beginning. One word for this plan is 'redemption'. God's plan of redemption is for the entire world, and yet the Bible speaks of election. There are three types of election:-

1. Israel

- The people of Israel were chosen by God for a special purpose. Deuteronomy 4:35-38, 7:6-8

2. Individuals chosen for a special purpose

- The priests Deuteronomy 18:1-2
- The Apostles 1 Corinthians 1:1

3. Children of God

- Those who have put their trust in Jesus, have been chosen by God. Ephesians 1:4-5, 1 Peter 2:9
- God doesn't want any to perish, yet he already knows that some will not come to him because of their sin. John 3:18-20



*There's no point in preaching the gospel if those who God has elected will be saved anyway!
Is this true? Discuss.*



God has an eternal plan, and all things are at work to bring about his plan. This plan doesn't depend on man, but is inclusive of all God has created. Doesn't this give us hope for the future?