

Catechetical Sermon, June 9th, 2024

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 9, "Creation"

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 1 and 2

Lesson Aim	To understand the theological significance of God creating all things out of nothing.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 9 and Genesis 1 and 2 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>What do we mean by the phrase, "theology of creation?" It refers to understanding the significance of our place within the creation that God brought into existence, out of nothing, simply by the Word of his power.</p> <p>Where in the Bible does it say that God created out of nothing? Hebrews 11:3.</p> <p>What is the significance that God created out of nothing? That matter is not eternal; God is. Also, if God has the power and wisdom to bring all things into existence simply by his Word, and if we know this God through Christ, then we have nothing to fear or to be anxious about; God can take care of us in any challenging situation.</p> <p>We discussed how the creation week has a natural order and logic. What is the significance of this fact? That we become wise when we live according to this natural order and logic. For instance, a wise person realizes that he was created to work and cultivate the earth and finds satisfaction in doing so. Ultimate wisdom is fearing God in Christ.</p> <p>What is the significance of the 7th day having no concluding formula? It is because it is an eternal day of rest. This day is a sign of eternal rest for God's people in Christ.</p> <p>Is Genesis chapter 2 another creation account? No, it is a sequel of the creation story.</p> <p>What does chapter 2 focus on? Several things: First, that man is created as male and female and that the propagation of humanity is only possible through the marriage of a man and woman. Second, that ordinary providence is in effect according to the fact that God sent rain to water the earth. Third, that when Adam becomes a living creature by the breath of God, it denotes that mankind is created in the image of God in holiness, righteousness and knowledge. Finally, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil function to point us to Christ and salvation in him.</p>
Bible Reading	Acts 22-24 [The story of the early church] (covering the great Bible stories)