

Trinity Sunday 6/11/17
Genesis 1:10

AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

In the beginning, God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. As we heard in our reading, the Father is there, the Spirit is there, hovering over the face of the waters, and the pre-incarnate Word, the Son Jesus, is there creating all things.

God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. “And God saw that the light was good” (v. 3). He called the dry ground “earth” and the “waters that were gather together He called Seas. And God saw that it was good” (v. 10). The earth brought forth vegetation, “plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good” (v. 12). And God made the great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night ... And God saw that it was good” (vv.16, 18). God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good” (v. 21). God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good” (v. 25). God saw everything He had made and it was good – VERY GOOD.

Dear Child of God, the Bible is teaching us that when the Triune God does things, they are good. That's how the Triune God makes things; that's how He works.

But, you look at the world today and say, "Good?" Would you use the word "good" to describe the heavens and the earth today?

Four months, even three months ago, you were giving away snow for free. In fact, you may have paid cash money to have people take your snow away and you couldn't wait to see 80-degree weather. It came, and with the heat, drought. You've seen on the news or social media the videos of ranchers lined up at the sales barn to sell their livestock because they have nothing to feed them. Wind and hail, tornadoes and wild fires are all reminders to us that the heavens and the earth can be a hostile place for us.

And the sea? The poet said it so well, "Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink" because 72% of the earth is covered by water, but 97% of that water is salt water, which is unsuitable for drinking (Samuel Taylor Coleridge). And, when those waters get out of control, they flood our homes and property.

But, that's not the worst part of it. No, the worst part of it all is – YOU! Yes, you're the worst part of the whole mess. When God made you, He created you to be the crown of His creation, to rule over His creation in His place. He told you to multiply, to fill the earth, and subdue it, all for your good. You're His caretaker, His steward. But, that's not going very well. You're to blame because you're sinful and you sin.

God made Adam and Eve, but they sinned. And the blame game started. Adam was all, "Not my fault. That woman you gave me, she did it.

So, God, if you want to blame anyone, blame yourself for this mess. Don't blame me." Eve was all about blaming the serpent.

Cain and Abel. They went out into a field one day, and one brother murdered the other and on and on it has gone down through the generations, down to us today.

God commands us to worship God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but we worship the unholy trinity of me, myself, and I. Love your neighbor. No, lust is a whole lot easier. Speak well of your neighbor and explain everything in the kindest way, but gossip is so much more fun. Forgive and be reconciled, live at peace with all. But, you keep a record of wrongs, and even feel justified not to live at peace with your neighbor. These are not good. They destroy us.

Then, there is all the other stuff that we deal with simply because we live in a sinful and fallen world – the accidents, the broken bones, the diseases of body and mind, divorces, broken relationships. It's all the result of sin and it's not good.

It's not good because it makes us wonder about God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It makes us doubt. If He created all things to be good, then why are things in the world and in my life not good anymore. Does He even care about me?

Dear Child of God, God answered that question long before there was even a fall into sin. He created man and looked at the man and said it was not good that he should be alone, so I will create a helper for him. And He did. He created Eve. The man saw her and said, "Ohhh, alright!" Yes, I know had said "This is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh," but he is excited, because the he knows what a special gift God has given him in his bride.

Do you see what the Triune God did here? He took a situation that was not good – the man was alone – and He fixed it. He made it good because that's what the Triune God does. God did make it good for Adam by giving him a helpmate and He makes it good for you by sending His Son to be your Savior and the Holy Spirit to be your Comforter.

God looked at the world and saw that it was not good. Not good at all; in fact, it was very, very bad. And what did God do? He loved the world. He loved the world so much that he sent His only-begotten Son into this world, not to condemn the world, but to save it.

Jesus came into this world to carry our griefs and our sorrows; He came to bear our diseases, our illnesses, our infirmities. He came to take unto Himself your sin, your iniquity, your rebellion against God and His Commandments. He took all that unto Himself and carried it to the cross of Calvary, where He bled all over that wood and died upon it, so that you would be forgiven. All of your sin is washed away in the blood of Christ Jesus.

When did all that happen? On a Friday called "Good." That's what the Triune God does – He makes things good.

And all that goodness is poured into your life when you were joined to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your baptism. There, the forgiveness of sins, eternal salvation, and the goodness of God came flowing over you, so that you live in a different world, your citizenship is in heaven.

Things around you may be bad, bad people may do bad things, bad things may happen, but by the grace of God, you live in the sure and certain hope that God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, works all things together for good. You can say with Paul,

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? ... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:31-32, 38-39).

That is the goodness in which you live. And in that goodness, you have the sure and certain hope that God will make all things GOOD.

Especially, it will be good when God ushers in a new heaven and a new earth in which all the bad is gone and there is only good. God Himself speaks of it this way,

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away (Rev 21:3-4).

And that is VERY GOOD.

ATHANASIAN CREED