

What's the Message – Lesson Two

Today's study is Lesson Two – God created all things good.

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Savior. May the Lord bless you through this study, and enable you to see that with His creation God has given us a wonderful gift, complete and good in and of itself to satisfy our every need. Amen.

Welcome again to our series of Bible studies that aims to focus on not just the words of the text, but the meaning that it is trying to convey to us as we live out our lives in today's world.

We continue with our study of Genesis, chapter one. Last time we learned the comforting assurance that God is, and we can trust in His almighty power to govern our lives.

Today we focus on what God accomplished in this creation, and the Hebrew word “*tobe*” which we translate as “good”. This word appears five times in the first chapter of Genesis, relating to each of the first five days of creation, in verses 4, 10, 12, 18, and 25. In each of these verses you will find a phrase that says, in brief . . . God saw that what He had done that day was ... *good*.

But in verse 31 we see another word added for emphasis. There it says ... *God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good!*

The Hebrew word that was added is *meh-ode'* which, as in English, places a superlative emphasis that might also be translated as “exceedingly” good.

Not that just some of it is good. Not that just some of it is majestic and beautiful. There are no limiting qualifications at all. God saw everything that He had made, and all of it was very good . . . exceedingly good!

Everything in His creation, in and of itself, originally was good for the sustenance of all of God's creatures. It served the purpose for which God created it.

But that is not the message the Devil wants you to hear. As we will see in a future lesson, the Devil is the great deceiver, and his first step is usually to cast doubt upon what God has said.

Following Satan's lead, there are many in our world today who would like you to believe that the creation was not all good, that there were flaws in it. They would have you believe that these flaws are the reason that the world is an imperfect place today, and that if there is a "creator," this imperfection is the fault of that creator, not us. In this manner, doubt is sown. Trying to blame God for our mistakes is one of the Devil's oldest tricks. It is pure and simply a weak excuse. It has never worked, and ultimately will never work.

But is that the real message we should draw from these verses? Teacher, what is the message?

First, the Hebrew word *tobe* when used as an adjective, means "good, in the widest sense." In other words, good in every way. And when the Hebrew word *meh-ode'* is added to it, the full sense of the statement is that it is "exceedingly good" in every way. There is nothing mysterious here about the language used. It means exactly what it says. No "ifs", "ands", or "buts" about it. God declared it to be good, and useful for His purposes. And we confidently take Him at His word.

Second. What are God's purposes for His creation? We will learn more about the intended use of this creation as a tool in God's ultimate plan in later lessons, but for now, the point to emphasize is that God has given mankind a wondrous gift, a unique planet in our solar system that has on it all that is necessary to sustain and support our lives. We lack nothing, because God has seen to it that we have all the good things that we need. Take comfort in this assurance, and approach each day with positive confidence that God has provided . . . and will continue to do so.

Our next lesson will deal with the relationship and duties that God called for originally, and what that entails.

This series has been developed and written by our director of teacher training, Mr. D. A. Senter, and is copyrighted by Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Flower Mound, Texas. Your narrator is Dale Gaus.

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