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The Garden of God Genesis 2: 2—17



People view work as.....



Genesis 2:15 'The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.'



God is a working God and therefore all of our work is significant to Him.



OVERVIEW GENESIS 1—2

Read Genesis 2: 2—15

1. What is the relationship between the two accounts of creation: Genesis 1:1—2:3 and 2: 4 - 25?
2. What different attributes of God are emphasised in these two accounts of creation?
3. How is God's immanence seen in Genesis 2: 5—14?
Vs 5—6

Vs 7

Vs 8

Vs 9

Vs 10—14
4. What is the purpose of Genesis 2:4 in the second account of creation?

GOD IS A WORKING GOD

Read Genesis 2: 15

5. Given that God creates man from the dust of the earth, what do we learn about God's attitude to work, the material world, and ordinary life?



Noel Weeks in 'Gateway to the Old Testament writes...

'We should not see chapters 1 and 2 as completely divorced from chapter 1. The new section begins at 2:4 with 'These are the generations of the heavens and the earth.' The formula 'these are the generations of x' occurs a number of times in Genesis. It means 'these are what comes forth from x'; 'these are what are generated by x'. For example, the generations of Terah are described from Genesis 11:27 to 25:11, but only a few verses mention Terah since the real subject is the what comes forth from Terah, that is Abraham. So Genesis 2:4 is not concerned with retelling the story of the heavens and the earth. It focusses on what comes forth from the heavens and the earth, namely plants, animals and man. It presupposes chapter 1. There is a certain overlap, but chapters 2 and 3 cannot be regarded as a creation account that could stand alone.' p 86



THINK THROUGH FURTHER

6. What is the significance of 'gardening' in our passage?



7. Dorothy Sayers says: 'work is the gracious expression of creative energy in the service of others.' Discuss

8. Lester de Koster says: 'work is the form in which we make ourselves useful to others.....in which others make themselves useful to us.' Discuss

9. How important is it that our work be skilful and competent?

10. Genesis 2: 2—17 shows that there is no distinction between the 'sacred' and the 'secular'. Discuss.



PRAYER

Praise God for the challenges raised by God's word through this study

Praying for others in your group



FAMILY DISCUSSION

How do we apply this passage in our daily life?

'Work is the gracious expression of creative energy in the service of others.'

Dorothy Sayers

PRAISE GOD for his immanence—that He is intimately involved in the world and ordinary life.

CONFESS our 'blindspots' in not seeing God at work in our lives.

ASK GOD that our work will be skilful and competent and one way that we can love our neighbour.

PRAY ALSO for those looking for employment.



READ AHEAD

Next week's topic is the Garden of God. Read: Genesis 2: 18—25