God is maker: honour him

SLIDE: God’s plan for history

Part one: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.

Part two: repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.

We are living in that second period.

This is the first of six talks setting out God’s message to the nations. I am going to teach you a clear outline, a summary of God’s message. It can’t be everything – it is only a summary.

Go through 2WTL.

READING of Gen 1

READING of Genesis 1 – with banners ‘God said’ and ‘it was good’ – ‘the light was good’ – ‘it was very good’.

God is the loving ruler of the world.

He made the world.

He made us rulers of the world under him.

**God made everything**

What is God like? The Bible starts with God the maker.

This is the basic description of God.

When the disciples started preaching to non-Jews, to people with no Bible, they started with God the maker of all things.

God the maker is none by everyone – he makes himself clear in the universe he has made.

Creation is the beginning of theological reflection.

Creation by speech is a real expression of power – I don’t do anything, I just speak and it happens.

**God made everything**

All things come from God.

Children ask: Who made God?

God made everything. Nothing made God.

All things come from God. God did not come from anything.

That makes him different from everything in the universe.

What is God like? The Bible starts with God the maker.

This is the basic description of God.

We assume it, but don’t see its implications.

Non-Christians assume it or distort it or supress it.

**God made everything**

God made the world it belongs to him. He is in charge of it. He is king. He is king over every part of it. The sky, the sea, the countries of the world. He is in charge over people in this country and every country. He is in charge of you and of me.

He is in charge if we listen and if we don’t listen. “You can believe in God if you want to”. That makes no sense if we consider he made us. He is not just an idea in my head, an imaginary friend. He is not a story I have made up. My life is a story he has made up.

God made everything. Because he made it, he owns it. If he owns it, he is in charge of it.

I make a paper aeroplane, it is mine. I can keep it. I can scrunch it up. I am king of my paper aeroplane.

You make some biscuits or some cakes – you consider you are in charge of them.

Revelation 4:11.

READ text from Payne: God me and the Bible.

All the creatures of the universe join in singing.

The reason for the universe worshipping God is that he is the creator.

**God made everything**

**God made everything with a purpose**

The first part of this is that ‘It is good’.

This world is full of good things.

Different things to see – amazing animals, sports teams, films

Beautiful music to hear, birds singing, people singing

Tastes – sour lemon, sweet chocolate, clean water, creamy ice milk, spicy jollof rice.

The Bible says the universe we live is characterised by goodness. Mountains, trees, oceans, stars, birds are not evil. The universe is not evil in itself. Evil is not found in the creation in itself.

Some religions say that this world is bad. The answer is to escape this world. To connect with the spirit realm. The Bible says this world is created good. The final conclusion of God’s work is not us living in heaven but a new creation. God with us in this world. But this world put right. That is why the resurrection of Jesus is so important for our belief.

What does God mean ‘it was good’?

We say that is a good phone – it can do what you want phones to do. I can call my contacts, I can read the screen, the battery doesn’t die too quickly…

That is a good holiday – it does what you want holidays to do. I am rested. I appreciate this world. I have taken a break from regular activities.

The universe is good for what God wants it to be good. It is good for HIS purposes.

People who say there is no god can’t tell us what is the purpose of life. What is the point of humans. They end up with the answer: you can only make up the answer. There is no answer out there.

But we can’t live like that.

There is a jug of water…. So….? So what?

There is a jug of water, so throw it? No.

There is a jug of water so you can drink from it, so drink.

With no God, everything is just an accident.

Humans are the result of a long line of accidents.

But the maker, the owner can tell us why it is there.

**God made everything with a purpose**

Man is placed in order to subdue the world

It is not perfect. More is needed. That is part of God’s purpose.

Difference in sex is part of God’s plan. His reason for sexual difference is for multiplying.

**God made everything**

**God made everything with a purpose**

This is what people must recognise about God.

They must hear that he is in control.

For those of us who are already Christians, we must be thankful to our maker.

Paul writes to Timothy in I Timothy 4:4 that everything that God has made is good and is to be received with thanksgiving, sanctified by the Word. In is the doctrine of the demons to forbid eating certain foods or to enjoin abstinence from sexual enjoyment.

Not only are things good but they are also good for us.

**We are tempted to despise the goodness of creation** **under the devil’s prompting, calling it evil**. The Hare Krishna devotees and the Christian Scientists do exactly that. There are so called Christian teachers who will tell us that certain things, like alcohol, are bad. God teaches us that he made wine to make glad the heart of man. Even money is good. The silver is God’s and the gold, the prophet says. Music is not the creation of the devil because the devil does not create; it is the creation of God and it is good. Any of the things of the creation may be used of the evil one but they themselves are not bad; they are misused.

**A second temptation is to take the goodness of God for granted**. It is only when a part of the creation malfunctions that we notice it.

We do not thank God for the stability of the earth.

We curse him for the occasional earthquake.

We do not thank God for the years and years of faithful service that our teeth give us.

We curse him for the momentary pain that we have received when the tooth aches.

We expect and demand the good earth to work properly and have lost some of the wonder of God’s generous provision.

Related to this second temptation is a third; that is, **to be so overwhelmed by the goodness of creation to forget the creator and wallow in the pleasures of it instead of him**. So in the OT, we find the people of Israel arriving in the promised land and forgetting the God who has given them so generously a land flowing with milk and honey. They came under the condemnation of God for they didn’t thank him for the good creation but just wallowed in the pleasures and delights of the land.