

INTRODUCTION

When God made us, when He made man, He also made arrangements for our happiness.
When God gave us our being, He also gave us what we need for our well-being.

I mention this as a way of putting three things to you

-We need to go on in our study to the fourth commandment and the rest of The Ten Commandments, and especially to understand how they apply to us today.

-Next week is our annual national Thanksgiving Day, and we need our hearts stirred up to give the Lord thanks.

-We always need to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So, in order

-rightly to understand how The Ten Commandments apply to us

-truly to be thankful as we get to Thanksgiving Day, and

-better to know the gospel of Jesus Christ

Consider the arrangements that God has made for our well-being.

TEXT

Genesis 1:26-2:24

BODY

I. We Will Consider God's Arrangements for Our Well-Being in Two Pairs

A. Marriage and childbearing

1. you could say "family"
2. of course there are families in which there is no married couple, and in which no one is the other one's mother or father, son or daughter
3. but if God had not arranged for Adam and Eve to be married, and had not blessed them to have children, you and I would not now be in a state even of being, much less of well-being!

B. Work and sabbath-keeping

C. These things are so basic, so fundamental to life on earth, that we

D. Think how much of our happiness comes through these arrangements God has made for us!

1. think for a moment about all the blessings that have come to the human race
 - a) by the institution of marriage; by all the marriages from Adam and Eve to the present
 - b) by the birth of children, and their growing up into adulthood
 - c) by the results, the effects of all of mankind's work
 - d) by all the good things that have happened on the day when get some rest from their usual work, and assemble to worship
2. think for a moment about all the blessings that have come to you personally (the most obvious, of course, is that you were born!)

We will consider God's arrangements for our well-being in two pairs; and

II. We Will Consider These Two Pairs As Developed Through the Bible

- A. The account of creation
- B. The history of Noah and the great flood
- C. The history of the patriarchs
- D. The Ten Commandments
 - 1. the fifth commandment, “Honor thy father and mother” and the seventh commandment, “Thou shalt not commit adultery” refer to God’s arrangements of marriage and childbearing
 - 2. the fourth commandment, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy,” and the eighth commandment, “Thou shalt not steal” refer to God’s arrangements of work and sabbath-keeping
- E. The others kinds of Old Covenant laws: the ceremonial and civil laws
- F. The wisdom literature
- G. The OT prophets
- H. The doctrine and example of our Lord Jesus Himself when He came
- I. The doctrine and example of His apostles, as we read in Acts and the epistles or letters
- J. The mystery of their fulfillment in how Jesus Christ saves sinners

The first place in the Bible where we will stop to consider God's arrangements for our well-being is the Bible's true account of how the Creator instituted them

III. At Creation

- A. The Bible contains the true history of the one true God creating the earth and everything in it
 - 1. the universe did not come into being billions of years ago by the big bang.
 - 2. the living things on the earth did not evolve from chemicals a billion years ago
 - 3. the universe and the living things in it were created by God only several thousand years ago, just when and how the Bible says
- B. Marriage and childbearing
 - 1. Gen 1:27 male and female He created them
 - 2. Gen 2:21-24 man shall...be joined to his wife
 - 3. Gen 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply..."
 - 4. notice that God pronounced His blessing on us as to childbearing
- C. Work and sabbath-keeping
 - 1. Gen 2:2-3 God had worked six days; He then rested the seventh day
 - a) God blessed the seventh day
 - b) God sanctified the seventh day, made it holy
 - 2. Genesis 2:15 God placed man in the garden to work it
- D. God made us capable of doing these things - He designed and built our amazing bodies and our souls
- E. God made these arrangements when our whole race consisted in just Adam and Eve
 - 1. we have studied Matthew 5 and Ephesians 2
 - a) Mt. 5:17-20 - Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets
 - b) Eph 2 - He tore down the wall that divided Jew from Gentile, having abolished the enmity, the law of commandments in ordinances
 - 2. which statement governs these things?
 - a) do we think that Jesus came to destroy marriage, childrearing, labor, and sabbath-keeping?
 - b) do we think that when God instituted marriage, childrearing, labor, and sabbath-keeping, they were instituted only for Israel? or that they separated some people from others? not Adam from himself, not Adam from his wife Eve
 - 3. if these things were instituted when God created the heavens and the earth, when might they be subject to being revoked? when heaven and earth pass away!
 - a) e.g. Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

Even in the Bible's true account of how the Creator instituted these arrangements at creation, we find that we can consider in them

IV. The Gospel of Jesus Christ

- A. God made these arrangements for us when He created us in a state of innocence, before we had sinned
- B. But even as God created us, and even as He made these arrangements for our well-being, He knew that we would rebel against Him, both dishonoring Him and ruining ourselves; He knew we would fall from the state of happiness into a state of sin and misery
- C. And so God made these arrangements durable enough to withstand the fall of man, and still be good for us, even as sinners
 1. we can still get married, and enjoy marriage, even though our enjoyment of that institution is now marred by sin
 2. we can still have children, although now our enjoyment of that blessing also is marred by sin
 3. we can still work and enjoy the fruit of our labor, although now our work is sweaty and laborious
 4. we can still keep the sabbath, and enjoy the rest and the worship of it, although now our observance of it is made imperfect by the effects of sin on the earth, on society, and on ourselves
- D. God, being wise and merciful, built into these arrangements the means by which He would save us from the death we had earned by our sin, and bring us into a state of happiness in Jesus Christ that is greater than that in which we were created
 1. the woman would bring forth the child who would save us from our sins
 2. the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, would do the work needed for us to be counted righteous in Him
- E. And in the original institution of these arrangements God made for us is the mystery of how Jesus Christ would save us
 1. Ephesians 5:31-32 "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
 2. Hebrews 4:10-11 For he [Jesus] who has entered His rest has himself [Jesus] also ceased from his [Jesus'] works as God did from His. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

CONCLUSION

When God made us, He also made arrangements for our well-being. By considering these, we can understand how the Ten Commandments apply to us, and how the good news for us sinners is salvation in Jesus Christ, the ultimate fulfillment of them.

Thad - Call to Worship - Psalm 117

Stephen Jeff - Scripture Reading - Matthew 6:24-34

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Journey - Prelude - your choice

Allison a capella - Trinity 3 "From All that Dwell Below the Skies" - Andrew lead

Angie - Trinity 133 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" - Alvin lead

Haven - Trinity 186 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

How can we discern what laws are still in force?

Based on Eph 2:14-16:

- laws that divided Jew from Gentile are taken away
- laws that did not divide Jew from Gentile are not taken away

Based on Exodus

- those that are included in The Ten Commandments are still in force