

Sunday 28th October 2007
Reading Family Church

Title: In the beginning, God.

Read Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Genesis is primarily theological – it is concerned with describing who God is, how and why He acts and how He deals with mankind; and God is the central actor in this epic.

1) *What does Genesis 1 teach about God & His creation?* God created the entire universe, in fact all the universes, out of nothing, for a meaning and a purpose – namely to bring glory to himself. God the Father was the primary agent in initiating the act of creation, but the Son and the Holy Spirit were also active. God is distinct from His creation, He did not need to create us (Acts 17:25). Creation is described as taking place over six days with eight acts of creation, each introduced by the words ‘and God said’. Everything created was good, there was no other power or authority standing over or against God, or outside of His control.

2) *What does what does Genesis 1 teach about the Christian’s world view?* Genesis 1 primary goal is to answer the timeless questions of the greatest significance: Who is really in control? Does chaos and chance govern all things? We live in a world shaped by the events of Genesis 3, a fallen sinful world. Genesis 1 reveals that our worldview must be shaped by knowing God as the Sovereign Creator; as the God who is in control of the world’s destiny. We have a God who can create out of nothing and this God has given us Genesis 1 to “Bring comfort to God’s fearful people with the knowledge that their God is the sovereign Creator God who controls the world’s destiny and theirs”.

Questions:

- What else can we learn about God in Genesis 1?
- What might the original hearers have concluded from this passage?
- What needs to be adjusted in your worldview?
- How would you introduce the Gospel just using Genesis 1?

Notes:

- The **Joining the Family course** next Tuesday (6th Nov) at 8pm see Richard Walker for details.
- Cell groups are meeting next week at the church office on Thursday night for the **Intelligent Design evening 7:45**. Please work out lift shares!
- **Week of Prayer** starts Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th with our first all night prayer meeting on Friday 16th!