

From Creation to Eternity

From Creation to Eternity






God's daily design

Gen. 2:4-17





“Everyone will be forgotten, nothing we do will make any difference, and all good endeavours, even the best, will come to naught. Unless there is God.

If the God of the Bible exists, and there is a True Reality beneath and behind this one, and this life is not the only life, then every good endeavour, even the simplest ones, pursued in response to God’s calling, can matter forever.”

Os Guinness - “Making an Idol of Work”






**“All vocations are intended by God
to manifest His love in the world.”**

Thomas Merton


No Man Is an Island





4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.





5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.





6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.



7 Then the LORD God formed man
of dust from the ground, and
breathed into his nostrils the
breath of life; and man became a
living being.



God's Relationship 4-7


- Creator – Creature
- LORD God – position and name – personal
- 'breathed into nostrils' – very personal
- Origin and Purpose – core of meaning






**"If our identity is in our work,
rather than Christ, success will go
to our heads, and failure will go to
our hearts." Tim Keller**






8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.






9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.





10 Now a river flowed out of Eden
to water the garden; and from
there it divided and became four
rivers.





11 The name of the first is Pishon;
it flows around the whole land of
Havilah, where there is gold.

12 The gold of that land is good;
the bdellium and the onyx stone
are there.





13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.



God's Calling 8-14


- Gardener – ‘cultivate’
- Reasons to work
 - 2 Thess 3:10 – no work no eat
 - 1 Tim 5:8 – provide for family
 - Eph 4:28 – something to share
- Why from dust? ‘gold, bdellium, onyx’






**"There is no work,
however vile or sordid,
that does not glisten before God."
John Calvin**






15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.





16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;





17 but from the tree of the
knowledge of good and evil you
shall not eat, for in the day that
you eat from it you will surely die.”



God's Accountability 15-17

- 'cultivate' – 'keep it'
- 2 Trees – 'life' – 'good and evil'
- Permissive commands – Matt 4:4
- Prohibitive commands – 'thou shalt NOT'
- Love is volitional – 'not my will, yours be done!'
- 'If you love me you keep my commandments'





“The maid who sweeps here kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays – not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors. The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.”

Martin Luther



God's design


- Work as unto the LORD
- Not 'good enough for who it is for'
- A workman who does not need to be ashamed -
- All to the glory of God





**"The book of Genesis leaves us
with a striking truth - work was
part of paradise." Tim Keller**





**"Pray as though everything
depended on God.
Work as though everything
depended on you."
Augustine**



From Creation to Eternity

From Creation to Eternity

