

Scripture Reference: Genesis 1:1

Date: July 14, 2013

Title: "Four Words"

Focus: God is essential to understanding life.

Intro:

1. There are many ideas about God. Sad to say, many of them are wrong. Our impressions of God too often are based more on human interactions than on what God has revealed about Himself. Mankind needs a radical redefinition of who God is.

2. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to humanity. Genesis 1:1 serves as God's first act of self-disclosure. What does it reveal?

Body:

"In the beginning God...."

In the beginning of what?

How are readers to understand these words?

Is it the beginning of *Existence*?

Is a reader to assume that prior to this nothing existed, including God Himself?

No. For we see that "in the beginning," God is already present, existing.

Is it the beginning of *Time*?

Well maybe from our perspective. But not in the truest sense.

Before there was a way to measure time, God witnessed the passing of time.

These words are like the beginning of a novel. Though the reader has yet to behold a word and the story is yet to be known, the author is present and from His perspective the story is complete

In the beginning, there was nothing, but God.

These words mark a transition from a time before creation existed to after.

The only link between nothing and something, is God.

So What do These Four Words Reveal?

Before what is, was, God was.

Before anything existed, there was God.

Intentionally echoing the words of Genesis 1:1, John said, "*All things came into being through Him, and part from Him nothing came into being that has come into being*" (1:3).

God is the key necessary to understanding all that exists, nature, human relations, the cosmos, and yourself.

Though creation has a beginning, God does not.

God has no beginning or end.

He is the master of timing. Yet, He is timeless. Yes He works in time, but He is not restricted or defined by it.

James tells us, God "*never changes or casts a shifting shadow*" (1:17 / NLT).

Consequently God does not expire, go out of date, or *evolve* to adapt to changing conditions.

God transcends His creation.

This means He is more than the expression of His creation, you, me, the earth, the stars, the cosmos, or the sum total of all that has been or will ever be.

Romans 1:20: "*Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that [people] are without excuse.*"

While God can be seen in His creation by those who are looking, it is not sufficient to comprehend Him.

He is not created order nor a part of it.

As a result, He is not dependent upon it for His existence, identity, or purpose.

What Does this Mean for Your and Me?

Security

As the author of the novel, God is not taken by surprise. He knows the details of its unfolding and already sees its conclusion.

God is in control.

Safety

God is the bedrock of creation. Neither creation nor life will extend beyond the boundaries He has established (Job 28:8-11).

When God said He will not allow more than can be handled (1 Cor. 10:13), He can be trusted.

Understanding

As creator, God is the key to understanding life. He brings sense to what is senseless and order to confusion.

His promise of abundant life (John 10:10), He can deliver.

Closing:

1. God is inseparable from life. Attempting to do so leaves a person unbalanced and confused
2. Effort is to be invested at working God fully into life.

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