

The Repair Shop of the Gospel

Bible verses Genesis 1:26-28, 31

Charles Price

Consider

- **Discuss:** Charles compared a Repair Shop with a Salvage business. Discuss the difference.

Let's Examine

Read Genesis 1: 26-28 and v31

The best possible place to understand the purpose of the Gospel is to go back to Genesis.

There you find the Mission Statement of the Human Race, and therefore, the Mission Statement of the Gospel. The Gospel is not PLAN B after the failure of PLAN A, but it is the restoration of Plan A. (Charles Price)

- **Discuss:** Discuss how this statement is reinforced by the idea of Salvage and Repair which Charles used in his introduction.

The Creative Purpose 1: “A derived Image of God – made possible by dependence on God IN humanity” (CP)

- **Discuss:** In v 26 & 27 we learn that God imparted the image of his moral character onto us human beings! We were to be a physical and visible expression of God's moral character. Given that God is Righteous, what should his people morally 'look' like?

The Creative Purpose 2: “and let them have dominion...” Gen 1:26b

We were created to express his Image by dependence ON God. We were created to exercise dominion by obedience TO God. The Divine Image, expressed in Divine Authority. (CP)

- **Discuss:** When we try to exercise dominion while not being in the image of God, what happens? Give examples from around the globe, in our homes and in our schools and workplaces, and even where we 'play', where this is evident.
- **Discuss:** How does Romans 3: 10-12 and 15-17 support this?

Charles says, “Remember, that [the misery outlined in the Romans 3 verses] is not itself the problem – only the symptom... if [the world or a person is] unable or unwilling to treat the cause - separation from God- all it can do is try to [endlessly] manage the symptoms. We are grateful for politicians & forces that seek to do that - but that's all they can do!

- **Discuss:** How can this help you understand your purpose in being Light for God's Kingdom in this world and sharing the good news of Jesus?

The Redemptive Purpose: How is it all to be put right?

- **Discuss:** Describe the role of Jesus Christ in being the “Repairer” of this broken situation. Use these verses to support your thoughts: John 10:10, 1 John 5:11-12, Romans 8:9, John 3:3, 1 Thess. 5:10, Galatians 5:22-24, 2 Corinthians 3: 17-18

Let’s Apply

“The Restoration of the Life of God IN us (divine image) leads to The Restoration of the Lordship of God OVER us (Divine Authority) [so that] we are equipped to live as God intended us to live.” (Charles Price)

Discuss: Read Philippians 2:12-13 and find the divine image and divine authority which Charles mentions above, in it. With this in mind, discuss what Paul meant by “*continue to work out your salvation.*” Share with each other ways that you are aware that you ‘continue to...’

Salvage or Repair?

“To salvage is to take something broken and put it to different use...But not it’s original purpose. To repair, is to return it to its original usage.” (Charles Price)

Discuss: How are you a product of Divine Repair rather than Divine Salvage? How does this help you understand your existence, your purpose, your relationship with God through Jesus?

Personal Reflection:

- How have you witnessed the Divine Life and Lordship being manifest in your life this past week or so? What joys has it brought to your life? What challenges do you have with it?
- What motivates you to continue to live in God’s Life and under his Lordship? When you have identified that, spend some time in quiet devotion with Him. Speak to him about where you are at along the spectrum of ‘continue to.’

Let’s Pray

- Spend time praising God: for the restorative power of Jesus life, death, and resurrection!
- Confess (silently or out loud) any times when you may have thought too small and not lived in the understanding of who you have been created to be!
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower each person in your group to live the life of one who is created in the Image of God and to project the righteous character of God to this world
- Continue to pray for the church around the world; that we will allow Gods character and dominion to be displayed through our individual and our corporate lives!