

Principle Faith: Genesis Two (continued)

Part 4

The audio and print files for this class can be found online at <http://www.etspm.org/audio/principlefaith>

Our Purpose: ... to honor and glorify God through heart, soul, strength and mind ... in a way that demonstrates love for others and self at the same time. ... to focus on ... principles that help us understand the biblical text, our relationship to God and others

Our Goal: To examine at least the first eleven chapters of Genesis during the quarter, looking for, explaining, and applying the principles we find.

What is a principle? - a foundational truth or premise upon which we build beliefs, practices and explanations. ... a study of key ... principles in light of how they generate and strengthen faith, reflect God's nature and glory and build a case for all things spiritual. Biblical principles: reflect the existence/nature of God; indicate God's connection with the overall biblical theme; demonstrate divine providence; illustrate how tightly organized the "scheme" of redemption really is

Genesis In Context: ... how Israel fit into God's divine plan for the redemption of all mankind

2:1ff: God's purpose continues

1. God sanctified his creation (2:3; cf. Is 45:18)
2. God recorded his "history" (2:4; cf. Principle Faith: Genesis - Part 3)
3. God's recorded "history" anticipates completion/purpose (e.g., "before any plant ... herb, etc. 2:5ff)
4. God provisions continued
 - a. plants, herbs, mist, rain, et. al. (2:5ff)
 - b. garden (2:8ff)
 - c. trees - pleasant to sight and good for food (2:9ff)
 - d. rivers (physical, spiritual) as provisions for life (2:10ff; cf. Rev 21-22; Rom 8:31ff)
 - e. Adam's "helper" (2:18ff)

2:7: Man's unique place in the cosmos

1. man is the pinnacle of creation (1:26ff)
2. man is "God breathed" (2:7)
3. man was given dominion (1:28)
4. man was given all provisions (1:29)
5. man was given a special "job" (2:15)
6. man was given special restrictions (2:17)
7. man was given a special mate (2:18ff)
8. man was given an opportunity to fellowship (2:18ff)
9. man was given an opportunity to "be one" (2:23-25)
10. man's nature reflects God's (1:26 and prior pts)
11. man/woman were perfect physically/spiritually (1:25ff; 2:25)

2:15: God, the revealer (Amos 3:7) - "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."

1. divine love before the foundation of the world (John 17:23-24)
 - a. Jesus knew of the Father's love in his earthly existence (Jn 15:9)
 - b. Jesus knew of the Father's love in his heavenly existence (Jn 17:23-24)

- c. God's love in time - always gives, always speaks, is always known (Jn 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor 5:19; Titus 3:4; 1 Jn 4:9-10, 19)
 - d. God's love in eternity - always gives, always speaks, is always known (Jn 17:23-24)
2. God is faithful to his nature - he cannot deny himself (2 Tim 2:13)
 - a. it is God's nature to love - in time and in eternity
 - b. it is God's nature to give - in time and in eternity
 - c. it is God's nature to reveal - in time and in eternity
 4. God cannot help but reveal himself
 - a. the principle - God cannot help but reveal so that all will know (Amos 3:7)
 - b. principle exemplified #1 - Genesis 2:17 (Adam/Eve knew the rules "in advance")
 - c. principle exemplified #2 - Genesis 4:1ff (Cain/Abel knew the rules "in advance")
 - d. principle exemplified #3 - Exodus 3ff (Moses/Israel; Pharaoh/Egypt; the world; cf. Ezek 20)
 - e. principle exemplified #4 - John 15:15ff (Jesus told the disciples everything)
 - f. parallel passages - Gen 18:17-19; Is 45:19; 48:16; Deut 30:11-14; Pr 8:1-4; Jn 17:8, 26; 18:20; Rom 16:26; 1 Cor 2:9-16; Eph 1:9; 3:1-5; Col 1:26; 1 Pet 1:11; Rev 1:1
 5. principles of God the revealer
 - a. demonstrates God's love
 - b. demonstrates God's benevolence
 - c. demonstrates God's will
 - d. demonstrates God's provisions/providence
 - e. demonstrates God's knowledge
 - f. demonstrates God's glorification (of self, for man)
 - g. demonstrates God's law/pattern
 6. God the revealer = God the provider
 - a. revelation - natural, special (Ps 19:1ff; 139; Rom 1:18ff; Acts 17:22ff)
 - b. providence - natural, special (cf. Acts 14:1ff)

2:25: Marriage - our ultimate field to display godlikeness

1. marriage: the spiritual dimension of the physical relationship (2:18ff)
2. parallel passages/principles:
3. married to God/Christ (Is 54:5; Jer 3:14; 31:32; Hos 2:19; Rom 7:1ff);
4. parallels heaven (Mt 22:1ff);
5. is spiritual in heaven (Mt 22:22ff);
6. constancy/faithfulness/watchfulness (Mt 25:1ff);
7. order/role/function (1 Cor 11:3);
8. purposes (Rom 7:1-4);
9. parallel with God/Christ, faithfulness, subjection, sacrifice, etc. (Eph 5:22ff);
10. concern/respect/holiness (1 Peter 3:1ff, 7ff);
11. destiny (Rev 19:7ff)

Assignment: Read through and study Genesis 3-4 for additional principles.