



Festival of the Trinity – June 3-5, 2023

Preacher: Pastor Scott Oelhafen

Sermon Theme: **It's a Good Thing You're Not God because of:**

1. God's timing 2. God's wisdom 3. God's holiness

Sermon Text: Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

In the saving name of the Triune God, my dear Christian friends,

Several years ago, Hollywood released a movie called "Bruce Almighty." Did you see it? If not, here's a quick plot summary. Actor Jim Carey plays a dopey TV reporter who complains that God's not doing His job and ends up meeting God who gives Bruce his power. So what's he going to do with almighty power? At first, he plays goofy tricks like parting the soup in his bowl (kind of like Moses parting the Red Sea), and moving the moon closer to earth to impress his girlfriend. Then he starts to realize that with great power comes great responsibility. Even though Bruce answers a million prayer requests with "yes", people are still not happy with him. Eventually, he realizes (what we could've told him in the first 5 minutes of the movie) that he's just not cut out for God's job.

The movie was a huge success. It made almost half a billion dollars because I think it talked about something we all can relate to. What if you were God? Could you do a better job of running the universe? Don't answer those questions so quickly. Thankfully, we've got something more than just a Hollywood movie. We've got the Holy Bible which gives us all the answers we need. It still surprises me how many people don't believe the Bible to be God's Word and truth in it's every word. Now follow me here. If we conclude that any of the Bible is wrong, then whether we realize it or not, we are really setting ourselves up as equal to God, and He's got impossible shoes to fill. So today, on this Festival of the Trinity, I pray the Holy Spirit will lead each of us will come to the same conclusion: **It's a Good Thing You're Not God.** I say that because of three good reasons: because of God's perfect timing, because of God's perfect wisdom, and because of God's perfect holiness.

One of life's biggest challenges is managing our time – there's never seems to be enough of it. Sound familiar? You put in 50-60 hours a week at the job, or you spend the whole weekend on a project at home, and your "to-do list" just keeps getting longer. You can try to function on four hours of sleep. You can pretend your family doesn't exist by keeping so busy. But, in the end, there always seems to be thirty hours of work in every twenty-four hour day.

So why do we keep track of time? Simple – for us time is a limited resource. But, listen to the opening words of Genesis, chapter one: ***In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*** With these magnificent words, God reminds us that He has created all things, all people, and all time. We may be limited by time but He is not. He

is the God of History. He's always been here. And He always will be here. History is really "HIS-STORY, the true story of how God takes care of every single one of us: creating, providing, and saving. And His timing is best.

Just think about how God the Father sent God the Son into our world at just the right time to save us. For 33 years, Jesus got up in the morning, lived our human experience, and went to bed at night. Why would He do this? He was taking our place for every time we wasted it, for every time we arrogantly thought our time belonged to us. Jesus devoted every moment of His life on earth to serve God, to make up for our every sin. And He didn't just sacrifice His time – He sacrificed His life on the cross to make us right with God.

You know what Stonehenge is, right? It's a giant clock to mark time. Even though it was built so many years ago, it still works today. But, some day even Stonehenge along with every watch, cell phone, and clock will stop working. Our time here on earth will most certainly end. But, because of the work of the Triune God, every single person who believes in Jesus Christ as their only Savior from sin, will have an eternity of time in heaven and not an eternity in hell

Here in our world, it's easy to get uptight about time. It's the guy in traffic who passes you on the right lane, because he's got to get to his destination. It's the shopper who jumps from one checkout lane to the next because she's in a hurry. It's a good thing I'm not God because I'd be spraying lightning bolts all over the place at everyone who got in my way. Wouldn't you? But, God's not like us. He's better. Just think how God is patient with us, this week, this day, this moment. We'll have a lot less stress and a lot more patience when we remember all time belongs to God and He perfectly shares time with us as we need it.

And we'll have a lot less stress when we remember whose wise agenda we really need to follow. Spoiler alert, it's not ours, but God's. Sometimes it's hard to figure out what God is up to. God is mysterious – his thoughts are not our thoughts and his ways are not our ways. So what is God doing when he allows an active gunman to enter a school? Why did God allow earthquakes and hurricanes to rage in our world? But, who are we to question how the all-mighty, all-knowing, and all-loving Triune God works? We are not him and that's a good thing. We have a hard enough time figuring out how to properly load the dishwasher.

But, Genesis chapter 1 assures us we have a Triune God who is a God of order. Just look at how God methodically created life in our world in six days. He didn't make the birds first and THEN the sky or the fish first and THEN the sea. God followed a logical, step by step progression.

We can learn a lot about God by studying our world. For example, did you know Earth is the only planet in our solar system where water exists as a liquid? That's a good thing for us because water makes up 65% of our bodies. Water keeps us alive. We can see God's wisdom and love by putting us here on this planet. Why do I say that?

Compare the atmosphere of Earth with the atmosphere of the next planet over, Venus which is primarily made up of sulfuric acid that dissolves steel, where the air pressure is equal to being a half mile underwater. God not only wisely created our world as a safe place for us to live but He's filled it with an amazing variety of mountains and valleys, plants and animals, rainforests and beaches.

That's why Genesis chapter 1 ends with God looking at all that He had made and said it was "very good." The Hebrew word for this means: "Perfect." God isn't just patting Himself on the back. He was being honest. His workmanship was perfect. God wisely gave our first parents Adam and Eve everything they could possibly need. But, they thought they needed more so they disobeyed God and ruined His creation bringing sin and death to every person.

As much as some would like to blame God for the Fall into sin, we can't. I mean, it's not God's fault there is decay and death in our world, trouble and disappointment. It's not God's fault if life doesn't always make sense to our sinful little minds. But, what really doesn't make sense is how God cares so much about us, how much He really loves us. I mean, what would we do, if we were God at the beginning of the world? What would we do with Adam and Eve, after they had had the forbidden fruit smeared all over their faces? We would most certainly have given them what they deserved by wiping them out and starting over. It's a good thing we're not God. Instead, in His wisdom God had His Son Jesus dispose of our garbage of all sin at the cross, the innocent for the guilty, the just for the unjust. We place ourselves in God's wise hands, even when life doesn't make sense.

I mean, If I were God, I don't think I'd allow the computer to be invented. Some days it seems like computers control us and not the other way around. Why does it seem like every machine that mankind has invented seems to work better after you give it a kick? Now compare man-made machines with God's creation of man. God created Adam and Eve in His holy image and gave them the ability to think and talk.. Even more amazing, God gave them the ability to choose good or evil, to obey or disobey Him. Adam & Eve were sure different from us because they were like God, holy and perfect. But, after they sinned, they lost God's holy image. By nature, now you and I don't have the power to choose in spiritual matters. Because we are born sinful, we say and do things that are selfish and not in our best interests.

So it's a good thing we're not God. He doesn't give us a kick. Instead, He gives us His Son Jesus to fix what is broken, to reinstall God's operating system in our hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit. As it says in Colossians, chapter 3: ***you have taken off your old self with its practices and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of the Creator.***" People often dream of a world where there is no poverty, sickness, suffering or wars. But, that's not going to happen this side of eternity. Our human race cannot repair itself in spite of all our technological advances. But, our Triune God does not abandon us. No matter how badly we crash and burn, Jesus and His forgiveness give us certain hope that things will get better – in part here, and certainly in perfection with him in heaven.

So it's a good thing we're not God. If we were, our lives would be a lot different, a whole lot worse. No matter how messed up life may go, the Bible teaches us today that Triune God is patient, kind, and merciful. That's why we never want to take God out of Genesis, chapter 1 or any other chapter of the Bible. So, in all things, let God be God and listen to Him. Just ask Bruce Almighty. God knows what He's doing even when we don't. Amen.