

## **Module 2 Section 3: Biblical Doctrine - Lessons of Life**

### **Presentation Outline - Bro Dele Popoola**

#### **Part 1: God's Creation and Purpose**

##### The Triune God as Creator

- The Creator of man is the Triune God
  - Father, Son, and Spirit (Genesis 1:26)
- Man was created for the purpose of the Triune God
- God's intention to create man was rooted in His triune nature

##### Man Created in God's Image and Likeness

Image = God's inward being

Likeness = God's outward form

- Christ is the visible expression of God's attributes and virtues (Colossians 1:15; 2 Corinthians 4:4)
- Man was made in the image of God, which is Christ
- Man reflects God's attributes (thinking, loving, choosing), but not the divine reality
- Man must receive God as life and content to truly express Him
- Man was made for Christ to enter, occupy, and express Himself through man
- Man is a container for God's life
- Though God is invisible, He appeared to Abraham in human likeness (Genesis 18)
- Man's physical body was created after God's likeness
  - God formed man's physical body from dust for earthly existence
  - When the body dies, the man dies

##### Man's Spirit and Soul

- God breathed into man to give him a spirit (Genesis 2:7; Proverbs 20:27)
- Body connects to the physical world; spirit connects to God
- God did not initially give man eternal life; man must choose it (Genesis 3:22–24)
- Soul formed by combining dust and breath of life
- Man is tripartite: body, soul, and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

- Soul includes mind, emotion, and will
- Scriptures show how each part functions in relation to God

### God's Intention for Man

- Man was created to receive God as life
  - This involves:
    - Understanding God's desire (mind) • Loving God's desire
    - Choosing God (will)
- God placed man before the tree of life (Genesis 2:16–17)
- God wanted man to receive Him, not follow laws or bear burdens

### Man as Vessel to receive and contain God

- Man is a vessel to contain God (Romans 9:21, 23; 2 Corinthians 4:7)
- Created as vessels of mercy, honour, and glory
- Human spirit is the receptacle for God's life

### Man: A vessel of God

- Man is a vessel designed for Christ to enter, occupy, and express Himself through:-
  - A Receptacle to Receive God
  - Human Spirit and God's Spirit

### A Receptacle to Receive God

- Man was created by God as a vessel
  - Paul described himself as an earthen vessel holding a treasure, Christ (2 Corinthians 4:7)
- To contain God, man needs a receptacle: the human spirit
- Unlike other creatures, only man was given a spirit
  - Analogy: A radio has an outer box and an inner receiver to catch invisible waves. Likewise, man's spirit is the inward receiver for God

### Human Spirit and God's Spirit

- Genesis 2:7 vs. John 20:22:
  - At creation, God's life didn't enter man, preserving free will and aligning with God's economy

- Jesus made it possible for man to receive eternal life.
- Though distinct, the human spirit is close to God's Spirit and can receive Him
- There is a transmission between God the Spirit and our human spirit
- John 4:24: Our spirit can contact God
- Romans 8:16: God's Spirit is one with our spirit—note the word "with."

#### Man as a vessel has:-

- A mind to Understand God
- An Emotion to Love God
- A Will to Choose God

#### A Mind to Understand God

- Luke 24:45 (AMP) and Romans 12:2 (AMP): Man was made with a mind to understand God.
- Every person is a psychological being – **a soul** - with the faculty of understanding.

#### An Emotion to Love God

- Man was created with emotion to love God.
- This enables us to appreciate, like, love, and treasure God

#### A Will to Choose God

- Without will, man would lack choice, decision, direction, and goal
- The will is the strongest part of man's psychological being
- The presence of two trees in Eden shows man's free will
- Man must choose to be a vessel to contain God
- Ephesians 3:17a: Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, rooting and grounding us in love
- A home is a large vessel - symbolic of our capacity to contain God

### **God's Intention for Man**

#### God's Purpose in Creating Man

- God created man to receive Him as life
- Man is to exercise his spirit
  - Understand God's desire with his mind

- Love God's desire with his emotion
- Choose God with his will

### God's Desire: Life, Not Law

- God placed man before the tree of life (Genesis 2:16–17)
- This shows God wanted man to receive Him as life
- God did not intend for man to:
  - Keep laws
  - Do good deeds
  - Bear burdens

### Two Trees, Two Choices Before Man

- Tree of Life: Signifies God as life to man
- Tree of Knowledge: Signifies Satan as evil to man

### The Tree of Life: A Life of Dependence

- Choosing the tree of life leads to a dependent life on God
- Life requires continual dependence (e.g. eating)
- God is not just knowledge—He is life (John 15:5)
- Abraham's life illustrates dependence on God (Acts 7:2)

### The Tree of Knowledge: A Life of Independence

- Choosing the tree of knowledge leads to independence from God
- Knowledge can make people feel self-sufficient
- Man became independent after eating from this tree

### Receiving God Through "Eating"

- Eating symbolizes receiving life organically
- Physical eating is a shadow; God is the true food
- Spiritual eating = assimilating Jesus into our being (John 6:35a, 6:57b)
- God becomes part of us, our fibers, tissue, and being
- God's first commandment was about eating
- Eating determines life or death
- Eating the tree of knowledge = receiving Satan as evil life

## God's Forbidding Commandment

- God's forbidding commandment was a warning to man, showing:
  - His greatness
  - His love
  - His desire
- God's desire was that man would eat the tree of life to receive God into him as his life