

**Sermon Notes of
Ron Morgan's Sermon on December 26, 2021:**

**"God Saved the Company – A Christmas Story
(Philippians 3:20-21)"**

[In today's sermon, Ron Morgan, at church in the Y, shows us that God created us so that we will become more like Him through Jesus Christ.]

Introduction:

- Now, 2021 has been quite a year.
- And what better way to end a bad year than to celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, which is such an uplifting experience versus all the depressing things that happened in 2021.
- Now, Christ's birth was just one event in a sequence of things.
- And as fantastic as the birth was, God was pretty fantastic before He came back to save us.
- God did some amazing things before He returned to the earth to pull us out of the fire.

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV), For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be on his shoulders. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. 7) Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

- This story started a long time ago.
- And the story started when God decided to create man in His image.
- And before He created man, He had to have a place for man to live, to thrive, and to learn to become more like Him.

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV), In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

- So, that's the beginning and as Paul Garvey would say, "Now for the rest of the story."

Genesis 1:26 (NIV), Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals." 27) So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- We have a lot of God's characteristics like God, but we came into a problem when we started to try to create God in our image and to create God with our characteristics.
- When we did that, we switched the story and that's where we went wrong.

27b) Male and female He created them.

- Instead of arguing about the difference between male and female, we should be concerned about whether we are loving all the children of God.
- But, we should not fear God's word, but we should fear the wrong interpretation of God's word.
- We all seem to be suffering somewhat from an identity crisis.

28) God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

- God first created a home for us and then he created us.
- He blessed us and also gave us instructions to be fruitful and increase in number.
- Expansion seems to be God's plan and once He told us about it, we were off and running.

God's first rodeo?

- When Ron looks up into the sky, he often wonders if we were God's first rodeo and are we the last. Has God done anything else after He had created us?
- Now when we think about the tree of life, good and evil – was this the first time God deployed this?
- Now when the serpent said, “You shall not surely die” it didn't sound like it was the serpent's first rodeo.
- He probably tried to subvert God before he said this to mankind.
- Another question we can ask is, “Did God create the death penalty, just for man?”
- Or was that death penalty already a part of the universe?
- Did the death penalty exist anywhere else or only on earth?
- When Ron thinks about these things, he wonders if this was God's first rodeo – but he doesn't think so.
- Now, irregardless as to what rodeo this is of God's, it's our first rodeo.
- Depending on whether or not this is God's first rodeo, there are many questions whether we are alone in the universe.
- Both thoughts, whether we are alone or not alone, are scary either way.
- But the truth of the matter is that we have never been alone from day one.
- Genesis tells us that.

Genesis 3:8 (NIV), Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Other intelligent life in the universe?

- Many scientists believe there is abundant life in the universe, but whether that life is intelligent life is another question.
- And another question we need to ask, “Is there intelligent life here on earth?”

- Now when we look at pictures of the universe taken through telescopes, they really tell us that God is magnificent.
- We can see that God is an expansionist, especially when we read the Bible.

What is our instruction?

- On a physical level, we have been given instructions by God to be fruitful and multiply – fill the earth and subdue it.
- And on a spiritual level, we have been told:

Matthew 28:19 (NIV), Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

- Definition of disciple: one who believes in the philosophy of the one who sent him and then educates the people of this ideology.
- Not what do you do once you make a disciple? Do you get 2 weeks in Cancun?
- No, that's not true. After you've made one disciple, you need to go and make another.
- And then the disciple you made, what is he/she to do?
- He/she has to go out and make other disciples.

God's plan for us:

- Now, Ron wants us to think of this place we live, not as a planet, but as a branch.
- We have been given our own branch to live and work.
- Now, our job, as a Christian, is to make disciples for the kingdom of God.
- And God is the master of efficiency.
- He uses us to make us. We are both product and worker, which is pretty efficient.
- God is using us to reproduce children of God, which makes us both worker and product, at the same time.
- Now, the better the product, the better the worker.
- And, the better the worker, the better the product.
- It's a never ending circle.
- But, God's product is never finished – it always has room to improve and to grow.
- Now man's product, on the other hand, can lose quality, while God's product gains quality.
- So, we're on the assembly line to produce children of God.
- Ron has been in business owning his own company for many years and when he hires someone new, they may not know how things are done, so they have to be taught.
- But, you hope they come in with the right attitude and when they do, you can always teach them.
- So, God gives us instructions about working on His assembly line and tells us how to have the right attitude, which leads us to the right product, we are trying to produce.
- And here are some of the instructions, God gives us.

Colossians 3:12 (New King James Version), Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13) bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

14) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17) And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- Now, all of us are suffering somewhat with an identity crisis, knowing who we are and who we work for.
- God gives us all kinds of example throughout nature on how He expands things.
- For example, you can take one seed of a tree, plant it and as it grows, it produces thousands of seeds.
- Now, when we have children, most of us have only one at a time.
- But, normally, we have more than one child.
- So, God is reproducing His product of humanity through us every day.
- Now, God also reproduce inanimate objects, as we'll see.

1 Kings 17:13 (NIV), Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14) For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

- Obviously, the people were experiencing a drought.

15) She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16) For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

Our redemption:

- In spite of God’s initial blessings upon humanity, we failed.
- The product of humanity was not good. And the workers were not good.
- Now, in the corporate world, if the branch is not producing a good product, guess what happens to the branch – it’s doomed to be closed.
- Now, it could be sold off, but it will be sold off quite cheaply because no one wants to pay a high price for something that doesn’t work.
- Now, we failed spiritually not just physically.
- On a celestial basis, to keep our branch from going out of existence, it had to be redeemed.
- And now, here is the Christmas story.

- And to be redeemed spiritually, required, not money, but rather blood.
- It couldn't be just any blood – but pure blood – worthy blood.
- Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ volunteered to shed that blood, and God the Father went along with it.
- Now the birth of Christ in human form was pretty magnificent, even the angels in heaven rejoiced.
- Jesus came to give us the opportunity to have eternal life, even though we were doomed to go out of existence. That's pretty fantastic.
- What Christ did, was the greatest episode of the Undercover Boss that has ever played.
- No one knows who the undercover boss is, because he just looks like a regular person.
- Well, Christ was the greatest Undercover Boss in the history of man.
- And He came, not to give raises or give out scholarships, or improve working conditions, but rather He came to save the branch, even though He's the owner of the entire universe.
- And what makes it so miraculous is that He came knowing that the people whom he came to save were wanting to kill Him.
- Now, some wanted to kill Him because they did not know who He was. And others wanted to kill Him because they did know who He was.
- That's the miracle of Christmas, because God knew what he was in for.
- God coming to save us was pretty special.
- And we, as believers in Jesus, can't forget who we are, because our future is secure.

Philippians 3:20 (New Living Translation), But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21) He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

- Now, here's another scripture for us to remember.

1 Corinthians 2:9, (NKJ), But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

- Ron then thanked all of us for attending the company meeting.

Closing prayer