

## **St Paul's Church, Beckenham**

### **Study Notes**

#### **GENESIS**

##### **Study 4 – Gen 2: 15-25 It is not good to be alone**

###### **1 Creation: Genesis 1 or Genesis 2?**

We have two “accounts” of Creation:

Genesis 1 is a poetic narrative which most might consider echoes a similar progression to evolution. Yet it is not meant to be a scientific description of the process of Creation.

Genesis 2 is different in style and purpose and describes how all things are related to the earth and have their place in the world that God has created, especially the responsibility that was given to the man, Adam. Read again these two chapters.

###### **2 It is not good ...**

In Genesis 1 God saw what he had made, “And it was good.” But in Gen 2: 18 God says, “It is not good...”

The animals and the birds were made from the earth, as man was, yet none of them was a fit helper for the man. However, he named them all. Names were important (and still are today, in some ways), they denote significance, sometimes description, sometimes relationship. In that Adam named the animals it spoke of a relationship of significance and care. At times it seems that we have forgotten this.

How was the creation of woman different, and significant? [Pause and think.]

She was not made from the earth but was made from the man! A special relationship, a special bond, a relationship of significance. A helpmate, a companion, complementary to the man. What does this say to us about the relationship between the sexes?

###### **3 Alone or Lonely?**

To be alone is often harmful. Yes, there are times when we need to be alone, but human beings are social creatures. God himself lives in relationship in the three persons of the Trinity. We are made in the image of God, and we need to live in relationship.

What type of relationship? [Pause and reflect]

Family, friends, partners.

A relationship with God our heavenly Father through Jesus and the Spirit.

Loneliness is a very contemporary problem, especially with the past year of lockdown. Yet one can also be lonely in a crowd! How can the Church help discern those who are lonely and in need of companionship? How can the Church (ie. you and I) become “family” and a friend to those in need? How can we encourage people who are lonely to be open and allow us to bear their burden with them?