

## And it was “Very Good”

Six times in Genesis one we read the statement, “*and God saw that it was good*” and one additional time we read “*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good*” (cf. Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). These statements help us understand the creation that we are a part of. When I am tempted to sin, diagnosed with a terminal sickness, go through a very trying financial situation, persecuted for my faith, and see the church falling apart in some areas; I can look to God’s word and read, “*and it was very good.*” When I live by faith, see the church thriving in spiritual unity, have good health, and experience financial security; I can again turn to God’s word and read, “*and it was very good.*” Let us consider God’s “very good” universe that we live in.

### Satan

Did God fail in creation when He allowed Satan into the Garden of Eden? Does God fail today when He allows Satan to tempt me to sin? Consider the fact that God gave man law in the garden and gave the consequences of violating that law (cf. Gen. 2:16-17). Throughout man’s history God has given law and the consequences for not following that law. Satan’s objective is to move man to violate God’s laws (Mt. 16:1; 19:3; 22:18, 35). These things being so, we conclude that God created man with a free will to choose his direction in life (Josh. 24:15). What God has made is “*very good*” because only those who truly love the Lord will make the choice to obey His words (II Jn. 6). Through such a system the Lord knows those who truly love Him (I Jn. 5:3).

### Life’s Trials

There are days in each individual’s life that we are tried by bad news, sickness, financial strain, loss of employment, and even when those we love decide to love us no more. What will my reaction to these awful things be? Shall I “*renounce God and die?*” (Job 2:9) Should I not rather say, “*Jehovah gave, and Jehovah hath taken away; blessed be the name of Jehovah*” (Job 1:21)? Each person will undergo trials in this life and a choice will be made as to how we allow them to affect us (James 1:1ff). There will be times that we are persecuted for our faith in various measures yet through it all we understand that our God is as a father who chastens His children that they may be educated to salvation (Heb. 12:5ff). Again, God is seeing who it is that will endure the trying days in faith of His promises and surely this is “*very good.*”

### The Church

The Lord has foretold of the church in the OT. The prophet Isaiah said that the church would be established in the “*latter days*” and that God’s new covenant law would be established at that time (Isa. 2:2-3). Indeed the church was established in the “*latter days*” in “*Jerusalem*” on the “*day of Pentecost*” just as the prophet had foretold (cf. Acts 2:16-17; 3:24; Heb. 12:18-23). The prophet said that the purpose of the church would be to bring glory to God and make His commandments known to the world that man may be saved and so it was

(cf. Isa. 11:9; 60:3; 62:1ff; Eph. 3:10). Though the church is “very good” there are often problems within. Disgruntled factious brethren often are dissatisfied with the elders, preacher, deacons, or any other thing that isn’t going as they think it should. They seek out other brethren who agree with their discontentment. A party is formed within the church and eventually a division occurs. All the while, we know that all these actions are “very good” in the eyes of God. Yes, you read correctly. Consider what Paul told the Corinthian brethren regarding said activity. Paul said, “*For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also factions among you, that they that are approved may be made manifest among you*” (I Cor. 11:18-19). As long as the church exists on this earth there will be divisive brethren (I Cor. 1:11) who cause strife and discord (I Cor. 3:1ff). Again, God is watching our actions and seeing who His true followers are (cf. Jer. 23:23-24; I Jn. 2:18-19).

### **Concluding Thoughts**

By God’s omnipotence and sovereign choice He created a world where man had the choice to obey or disobey Him. This was exactly what God wanted when he created the world. Now is not the time of bliss for mankind. Later, in heaven, faithful men and women will live for eternity and never be tempted to sin by the devil, never suffer at the hands of persecutors, never suffer trying hardships in life, and never have to deal with a disgruntled factious member of the body of Christ (cf. Rev. 21-22). What we learn from all this is that not only the creation but the church, our persecutions, and our trials are just as God would have it. He has made man with the ability to make choices. Those who truly love the Lord will chose to serve Him with all their being (cf. Jn. 14:15). Heaven will be filled with the true saints of God (Rev. 21:27). Indeed, God’s creation is “*very good.*”