

Looking Back Looking Ahead

Sunday September 14, 2008

Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing because he could only do a little.

Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

Where Are We In the Story?

The Bible Story

Beginning – Creation Gen 1

- The World is Not God → Idolatry
- The World is Good → Good World Gone Bad
- People Given a Job to Do – Image Bearers → Fall

End – New Creation Rev 21

- New Heaven and Earth – Promises Kept, Plans Completed
- Note Direction – Coming Down

Middle – Already But Not Yet – Where Are We? Rom 8

- Groaning – The New is Not Fully Here Yet
- FirstFruits – The New Has Started – Resurrection & Spirit

Other Stories

- Circle vs Line – Not Going Anywhere – Make the Most of it
- Stuck in a Body – Material World – Waiting to Escape
- Myth of Progress – We Can Fix this Thing

So What?

What Difference Does it Make?

- This Story is Going Somewhere – Purpose, Hope
- Celebrate Creation – Receive with Gratitude
- Avoid Idolatry – Worshiping As God what Is Not God
- Engaged In World – Still Have Job – Now and Then
 - Not Despair – Action in World Matters
 - Not Triumphalism – Only God Can Put It All Right

Take it Home!

If you were to tell the story of your life, what main sections would you use to tell it?

What difference does it make to believe that God created the world?

What has changed since Jesus came, lived, died and rose again?

What is it Christians are to be doing in the world?

Take It Home – Take this home and use these questions to think about the ideas shared today. It is even better if you can use these questions in a conversation with someone else.