

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Genesis 6 tells us that every intention of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually, so much so that the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart. (v.5) Genesis 7 shows us the de-creation as God blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, except for Noah and those who were with him in the ark. (v.23)

Still, things are not made right—Noah as the second Adam is far from perfect. Noah received God's favor upon him and was blameless in his generation as he sought to walk with God (Gen. 6:9). However, Genesis 9 sees Noah discovering and drinking wine and becoming naked and ashamed in his drunkenness, just as Adam before him became naked and ashamed in his sin. (v.20-21) Right before He establishes His covenant with Noah, God acknowledges that "the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth." (Gen. 8:21) His covenant with Noah reveals how the world has changed and been made broken as a result of sin. From then on, the fear and dread of man would be upon every beast of the earth, every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. (Gen. 9:2)

Romans 8 addresses this brokenness that the world was subjected to. The apostle Paul writes that "the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now." (v.22) But we can have hope, because there was a last Adam who came to redeem the world and everything in it. Unlike Adam and Noah, He came and did all things right—yet willingly subjected Himself to being naked and ashamed upon the cross as He died to make all things right. Like all of creation, we wait eagerly for that day when Jesus will return for good. Until then, church, let us find our hope and joy only in Him.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

If you were in Noah's shoes—trapped on a boat for a year with just your immediate family or a few close friends with no Internet or digital entertainment, what is a hobby, skill, or activity you would take up to pass the time? How would you cope with being on the ark for such an extended period of time?

QUESTION TWO:

"When things go wrong during your week, do you find yourself slipping into a "contract" mindset with God as you wonder what you did to deserve it?

How does seeing the rainbow as a "battle bow", pointing the arrow of justice up towards Christ, rather than down at us, reshape the way you view your own flaws and failures?

QUESTION THREE:

Though the rain came only for 40 days and nights, Noah and his family had to wait in the ark for an entire year until God gave them the go-ahead to leave.

What is a specific storm that you are weathering at the moment, or something that you are waiting for? How can your life group members help you "wait on the ark", practically speaking, and draw close to God today with worship and gratitude instead of running ahead of His timing?