



THINK ON THESE THINGS..... (our contributor this morning is Tony Wilson)

Reading: Genesis 1:31

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Reflection:

Something I enjoy doing is exploring small country towns and villages. The most interesting and oldest building in these places is usually the Church. So it's the best place to start my explorations. In one I visited a few years ago there was a small framed notice hanging on the wall near to a collection box for offerings from visitors. It read: 'We have done so much for so long with so little, that we are now qualified to do anything with nothing'. These words very aptly describe the situation of many voluntary organizations, especially Churches. They often function with insufficient money and too few people to do all the work.

However, the problem any voluntary organization faces when it doesn't have enough money should instead be looked at as an advantage. For what it does in practice is to encourage them to use their resources wisely. Churches are often in this position, and have to get every drop of value out of everything they spend. That's good stewardship of their resources.

In the verse from the book of Genesis I have chosen for the reading today, we learn that after God had finished creating the earth, God looked at it and saw that it was very good. That implies that we mustn't damage that 'very good' creation by the unwise and profligate misuse of the world's resources. For God has given them to us for all generations, past, present and future, to enjoy.

That notice, and the verse from Genesis, is a 'green' message to the Church. We must use the resources we have well. We mustn't be wasteful, for that can only damage the planet that God has given us to live on. Whilst doing anything with nothing is a bit of an exaggeration, I'm sure that with care, imagination and commitment we can do anything with very little.

Breath-Prayer: Lord Jesus, teach us to be faithful stewards of our time and talents, and of all that you have given us. Help us to use every opportunity to serve the needs of others, and to advance your realm in the world. Amen.

