

WHAT TO DO WITH THINGS PAST

Creating = arranging, fixing, establishing, making things
things have order, design and purpose

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≠ "just whatever way things turn out"

most of us are at the mercy of

| "how the cookie crumbles" |
| Murphy's law |
| C'est la vie |
| entropy = disintegration |

* although some people take destiny in their own hands, most still feel at the mercy of larger forces (perish = ruin, mar, mess up, lose, destroy)

Two Designs of God

(1) To be with Him (experiencing His love)

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(2) To be like Him (experiencing His life)

---> all the entropy and loss of the world traced back to breaking this original arrangement

* the whole race

* the smallest detail of one person's life

Our Past Things

world: (1) "Forget them; there's nothing you can do now."
(firecracker; past ---> future)

| (2) "Just start over; try again."
| (play)

| ---> no real way to actually do anything with them or to fix the broken arrangement of God

Jesus: The Plan of Restoration

- (1) The love and life of God
- (2) Getting us back to be with God and to be like God

Nothing does God want more
Nothing has He gone to greater, more costly lengths for

"Let me have them. Give them to Me. Let Me take them away. I can get rid of them for you."

"I have the authority to fix things and rearrange your life so that you experience the love and life of God -- instead of perishing, you will flourish"

What to Do?

- (1) Thank God that His design has never changed:
 - * He loves you and welcomes you
 - * He wants you to live life like He does
- (2) Ask forgiveness for your "past things"
Extend forgiveness for others' "past things"
- (3) Receive Jesus, welcome Jesus who is the forgiveness of God