

CrossRoads Baptist Church
January 7, 2007 10:00 a.m.
II Corinthians 5:17

“New Creation in Christ”

As we begin a new year, we often focus on resolutions that we make. But as a Christian, resolutions are really not necessary because the Bible says that a Christian is a “new creation in Christ.”

The word “creature” in II Corinthians 5: 17 is a Greek word that is used 19 times in the New Testament. Most of the time it is translated “creation” such as:
Mark 10: 6 “From the beginning of creation...”
Romans 8:22 “For we know the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs unto now.”

In Mark 16: 15 it is translated creature when it says “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

I feel the word is best translated “creation.” Everyone in Christ is a new creation. When we see that word, the first thing we think of is the creation of the earth in Genesis 1. As is always true, the first mention of a theme is always very important to see what God intends with the introduction of a thought, doctrine or theme.

When we look at creation and see how God pulls back the curtain for the first time to reveal on the stage of creation who He is and what He is about, I believe He’s not introducing creation of matter as much as the creation of man in redemption.

I. In Creation we see the makeup of sinners.

In Genesis 1, we see four things about the earth that are all statements about a person who is without Christ:

A. He is incomplete.

Genesis 1:2 says the earth was created “without form.” While some believe that something happened from the initial creation of the earth that caused it to be “formless,” I believe its best to see this as the initial earth was formed “incomplete.”

Man without Christ is incomplete. They are always searching for something more in their lives.

B. He is empty.

Genesis 1:2 says that the earth was “void” which means empty. It had not been filled yet.

So is man without Christ. Empty and searching for something to fill their life. An inward emptiness is the worse kind. Empty...lonely...yearning.

C. He is in darkness.

Genesis 1:2 says that the earth was covered in darkness. Darkness was not created but darkness occurs at the absence of light.

Man without Christ is in darkness because he has not come to the light which is Jesus Christ. He is lost and cannot find his way.

D. He is under the prison of sin and death.

Genesis 1:2 says the earth was submerged under water.

Man without Christ is draining in a sea of his own sin and bondage. He is submerged and cannot rescue himself. He needs a life guard to come and save him but as long as he fights the savior he will never be saved.

II. In Creation we see the matter of salvation.

As we look at Genesis 1, we see the very ones who are necessary for the creation of the world and creation of a new man in Christ.

A. God the Father is the originator of salvation.

Genesis 1:1 begins with God. Earth did not begin with man or the matter of earth, but with God. Without God, no earth.

Salvation did not begin with the need of man but with the heart of God.

B. God the Son is the work of salvation.

How did the earth come about?

Genesis 1: 3 “And then God said...” All that was done in creating earth was done through a word.

That word was and is Jesus Christ.

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

Colossians 1: 16 “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth...For all things were created through Him and for Him.”

The work of creation was done through Jesus Christ. So, the work of creation of man is done through the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus’ life completed all was needed for our salvation.

C. God the Spirit is the mover of salvation.

Genesis 1: 2 “And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

The Spirit of God is there in creation and he is hovering over the waters. The word “hovering” is the word for “brooding.” One commentator even says that it’s a vibrating affect.

The Spirit of God is causing friction as He moves back and forth over the waters.

In the creation of man, it is the Spirit of God that moves our hearts to see our sinfulness and need of Christ and then brings Christ to us.

III. In creation we see the result of salvation.

On the third day of creation as reported in Genesis 1:9-13 that on the third day of creation there was a separation of the land and water resulting in the earth bringing forth its fruit.

When a man becomes a new man in Christ, he is separated from his old life and the result is him bearing fruit.

A. Salvation creates a separation in our life.

The separation in creation was the dry land and waters. So a separation will take place.

For a man in Christ, the separation first comes from the old life.

II Corinthians 5:17 says “the old man passed away.” The word here is in aorist tense and is perfect tense meaning that this points to finality. The old man is passed away forever. He is gone.

Then the separation comes to the new life in Christ.

B. Salvation results in much fruit.

The result of the dry land coming forth was that the earth yielded its fruit according to its kind.

When a man becomes a new creation in Christ, he will bear fruit unto holiness because of his new nature.

John 15: 5 “I am the Vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.”

Luke 8:8 tells us that when the seed falls on good ground it will bear one hundred fold.

God is not interested in making you over or fixing you up with new year resolutions; He is interested in making you a new creation.

Galatians 6:15 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.”