

## **CREATION AND THE GLORY OF GOD**

### **Romans 8:18-25; Colossians 1:15-20**

With “Earth Day” coming up and a virus wreaking havoc on humanity....what should we think about the physical universe around us? Is the world only going to last 12 more years?

*“The cosmos is all there ever was, or is, or ever shall be.”* – Carl Sagan, PBS Cosmos TV series (1980’s). This is the view of secularists, naturalists, and atheists. But the Christian world view is that God is the Sovereign Good Creator who created all things for His glory and our good.

#### **1.GOD SOVEREIGNLY CREATED EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS**

- The Bible clearly teaches God is the Creator of all things that exist – Genesis 1:1. God created everything through His Word – Psalm 33:6, 8,9. The vastness of the universe proclaims the greatness of God. The smallness of humanity proclaims the amazing grace of God – Psalm 8.
- God created everything through God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord – John 1:1-3.

#### **2.GOD SOVEREIGNLY CREATED EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS FOR HIS GLORY**

- Everything God does is always first and ultimately for His own glory. God was under no obligation to create the world. He chose to create. Everything was created for the glory of God by God the Son – Colossians 1:16,17.
- We exist for God’s glory. Everything that exists is for the glory of God – Romans 11:36.
- But what has happened to the perfect world and universe? SIN. Everything is affected by sin, including this physical universe itself. Not only did death enter the human race with sin, but death affected everything. God’s judgment on sinful humanity impacts all of creation. We see this in Genesis 3:17-19. We see this in the Flood, and throughout human history -Romans 8:20-22. But this is not the end of the story...God will redeem creation too... for His glory!

#### **3.GOD SOVEREIGNLY CREATED EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS FOR OUR GOOD**

- Let us not be modern gnostics. Some Christians seem to think the physical has little or no value. The physical and the physical world matters to God and should matter to us – 1 Timothy 4:1-5. Everything was created to display God’s glory. Everything is to be used for the glory of God -1 Corinthians 10:31. Jesus Christ Himself became physically human for us and for our salvation – John 1:14; 1 John 4:1,2. The physical world matters to God. Our bodies matter to God. We are to present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice daily – Romans 12:1,2. We are to desire to glorify God with our bodies – 1 Corinthians 6:19,20. God considers our bodies so important to Himself, that He will raise them up and make them brand new – Romans 8:23-25; 1 Corinthians 15:50-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
- Will the earth be destroyed completely by humanity by human-caused “climate change”? Do we only have 12 years left? The Biblical answer is NO! Although we don’t know how much time we have left, the Bible does not say we will destroy ourselves – see Revelation. It is the judgment of God Himself that will wreak havoc on the world. But the world will not end with a human caused destruction. Christ will end it for the glory of God when He comes! – Matthew 24:22 ; Revelation 11:15. This does not mean we should not be good stewards of the earth now

and its resources. Christians should always be leaders in stewardship of God's creation. This was our original purpose – Genesis 2:15.

- Why has God allowed pestilences and plagues like this coronavirus? 1. To rebuke idolatry and wean us from loving the world 2. To remind us of the fragility and brevity of this life – James 4:13,14 3. To call us to repentance – Luke 13:1-5. 4. To encourage us to have our trust and hope in God alone 5. To point us to eternity and Christ's coming. Pestilences are a sign of His coming – Luke 21:10,11. 6. As an opportunity for the gospel – Matthew 5:16.

#### **4.GOD WILL SOVEREIGNLY RECREATE EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR GOOD!**

- Right now all of creation is affected by sin and is groaning – Romans 8:22. Creation's renewal and hope is bound up with the glorious freedom to come for the children of God! – Romans 20b-21. Creation itself is longing for Christ's return and our glorification – the believer's new bodies! The good news of the gospel in Jesus Christ included a new creation purchased along with our new bodies on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ – Colossian 1:20. This world is only temporary and will pass away – 2 Peter 3:10-13. But it will be God who ultimately destroys it. God will ultimately recreate the universe and the earth. The new heavens and the new earth will be the home of righteousness and it will be perfect forever! There will be no death, mourning, crying, pain, sickness, cancer, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, or coronavirus, ebola, etc. – Revelation 21:1-4.
- If you think this world is beautiful – you haven't seen anything yet!!! – Romans 8:18. The glory to come completely outweighs anything we suffer now – 2 Corinthians 4:17,18. Whatever sorrow, pain, loss, trial, affliction....is not worth comparing to the wonderful glory that is coming!

Concluding questions:

- Have you bowed before your Creator and acknowledged His absolute glory and goodness?
- Do you by faith see what is eternal? Or are you bound by seeing only what the world sees around us? Ask Christ to burn eternity in your heart afresh.
- Do you honor God with your body? Your physical life matters to God.
- Are you rejoicing in the eternal plan of God and longing to be with Him forever? Does this drive you to share the good news with others?