

10 Looks Look 2 – Creator (4 Aug 2024)



One day every last one of us will meet our Maker.

I have tried to imagine standing before my Creator at the last judgment – I simply can't get my mind around that concept.

So, imagine trying to come to grips with meeting your Maker – in this world?

That is far harder.

I tried to think of an analogy.

I imagined Frodo and Sam from Lord of the Rings entering the land of Mordor when a strange figure joins them.

He knows everything about them and he has the power to shape their reality.

He says Orc begone and they disappear.

He speaks and a feast appears.

He raises Boromir to life.

Finally, Frodo says – in the name of the Shire – just who are you?

And he answers – Frodo – surely you know me? – I am your Author – Tolkien. I wrote myself into the story to help you – and you don't recognise me?

Sorry – it didn't really work for me.

Authors can't actually enter their own story. It only happens in Hollywood movies.

But what actually happened in history is so incomprehensible to me that it makes Frodo meeting Tolkien seem reasonable.

One of the most humbling, mind-exploding, truths is that the Creator did enter the creation – as a creature.

And the Creator of all is so infinitely greater than His creation – the distance between Tolkien and Frodo is nothing compared to that between God and you.

With that in mind, I tried to imagine the disciples eating, drinking, talking with Jesus.

As their relationship develops, He says things like:

I am Lord of the Sabbath.

I am the light of the world

Before Abraham was – I Am.

I and the Father are one.

They realise those are claims to deity. He is saying He is God.

Then He backs it up by overriding the very laws of creation.

He turns water into wine.

He walks on water.

He commands the wind and the waves to cease.

He heals the blind.

He gives life to the dead.

He does stuff only the Creator can do.

How can mere men come to grips with that?

This man they can touch and see – created the heavens, the earth and them.

Somewhere, sometime – either before or after the resurrection – the disciples had to come to grips with this impossible truth – Jesus is their Creator.

Only the Spirit of God can allow this kind of faith.

You are standing in line at Woolies and the guy behind you taps you on the shoulder and says – just so you know – I am the true King of England – not Charles. You are hoping the line moves really quick.

But if he says – see that lettuce in your hand – I created it – Oh and I created you – then you want to call for the men in white coats.

We just don't have a category for a man who is God.

That is why most who heard His teaching tried to stone Jesus for blasphemy.

Even His family said – sorry about our lad Jesus – He is obviously a little cray cray – thinks He is God.

But, the disciples had to deal with the facts – how do you explain His miracles or the voice from heaven saying – this is My beloved Son?

Every disciple struggled.

Even today – I struggle.

Finally, they came to understand – Jesus is the Christ – the Creator – God.

Just think how earth-shattering that is.

If you think the Trinity is a mind trip – the Creator becoming part of the creation – it has absolutely done my head in this week.

He existed before the creation and He created everything that exists. Angels, the universe, animals, us.

Yet He existed as a man.

In fact, He exists for all eternity as a man.

He willingly chose to leave heaven to enter His fallen creation – suffer at the hands of His creation – to save the rebellious creation.

If you want to have your mind expanded about who Jesus is – join with me as we meditate on Him as – Creator.

We are in a series based on a quote from *Robert Murray McChesney*:



For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.

Looking at Christ humbles the mind, magnifies the mind and feeds the soul.

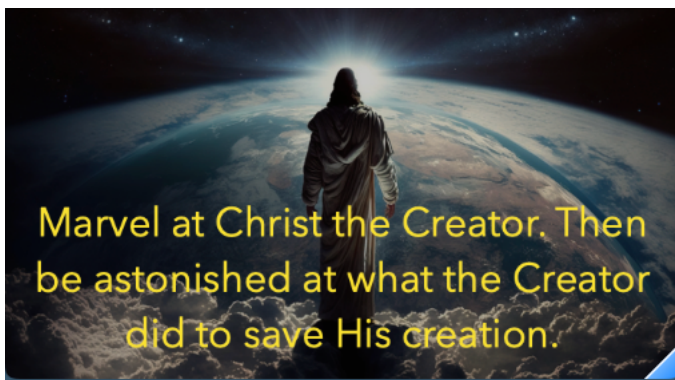
It is the greatest exercise we can undertake.

This morning the second look at Jesus I want us to meditate on is that **Christ glorifies the Father as:**



Creator

And here is what I want you to do:



Marvel at Christ the Creator. Then be astonished at what the Creator did to save His creation.

Marvel at Christ the Creator. Then be astonished at what the Creator did to save His creation.

To understand redemption – we have to understand creation.

Listen to how John's Gospel begins.

John 1:1–3:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. **All things were created through him,** and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.

In the beginning – before creation – there is the Word – who we are then told is Jesus and God the Father.

Because I am a creature who lives in time – I just can't get my head around God – or God and Christ – or the Trinity – in eternity past.

Frankly, everything that comes into my mind as I try to think about this is nearly blasphemous.

God in eternity past.

I start with this picture of God the Father – and He is more Michealangelo's bearded, muscular being in my thoughts.

God the Son – I think of the incarnate Christ – a man in a robe with a beard.

God the Holy Spirit – I have no concept I can visualise except the wind, breath.

And since this is before creation – I picture them existing in nothingness.

It is almost as if the three of them are floating in nothing – no stars, no light, nothing – just them.

That it is so depressing. They must be lonely.

Of course they chose to create.

Except – I know that is so, so wrong.

They existed in perfect contentment together – not in nothing but in heaven.

The problem is I have no categories for imagining God as spirit or heaven as a spiritual place.

Even though I can't imagine it – I know that God always existed as a perfectly content being in three persons.

But this God chose to create.

So turn with me to Colossians 1.

Paul places the story of redemption as part of the story of creation.

There are two things that Paul wants us to get in verses 15-20.



First – **he wants us to marvel at Christ the Creator.**

But – what is more is **he wants us to be astonished at Christ the new Creator.**

First, we need to – **Marvel at Christ the Creator.**



The King Over Creation 15

Verse15:

He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.

Now, this raises a huge question: why did God create at all? – especially if the creation was going to fall into sin and corruption.

It is most certainly **not** because God needed anything in creation. He was not lonely, needing to be completed.

Absolutely not! He was complete and all-sufficient.

The London Baptist Confession puts it well:

God, having all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself, is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient.

Alone in and unto Himself – God is all-sufficient.

So why create?

The Reformers were united in saying that God was not bound to create the world. But He created because it was a good thing.

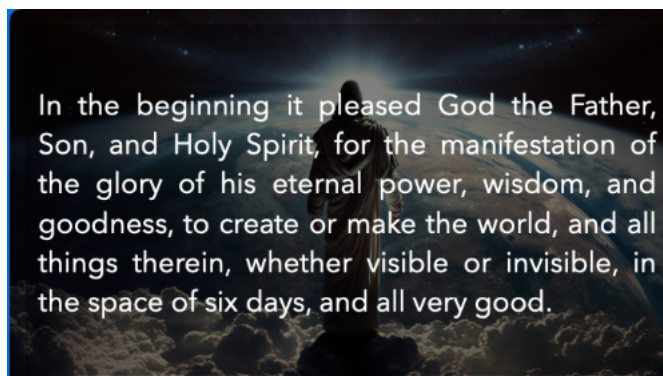
So as an act of the free will of God – He spoke and created.

They argued it was a necessary consequence of the goodness of God.

Basically, because God is good He chose to create.

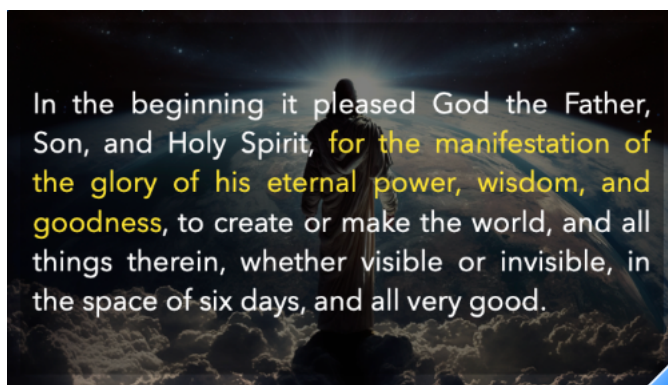
What does that mean?

The London Baptist Confession says this about creation:



In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Notice these words in the confession that tell us why God created:



For the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness.

He created so His glory, power, wisdom and goodness would be manifest.

The idea is this. There are attributes of God that would never be manifest if He did not create.

What attributes? – Ones such as His creativity, His power, His wisdom and His goodness in things such as His mercy, His grace and His justice.

Is an artist who never paints still an artist? Yes – but they manifest their art by painting.

God is creative and powerful – but He manifests His creativity by creating.

Perhaps even more crucial is that God is merciful and gracious – but unless He creates and redeems – His mercy and grace would never be manifest.

If there is nothing to be merciful and gracious to – these attributes are not expressed.

As well God is just and holy – but unless He judges in holiness – these are never manifest.

These aspects of His glory would never be seen if He did not create – nor is there anything to worship Him for these wonderful truths – unless He creates.

In Romans 9 – Paul says God created – He prepared objects for honour and objects for dishonour – why? – to display His power, mercy *and* wrath – **for His glory**.

Job says – the angels witnessed creation – and they sang and worshipped Him.

Peter says the angels witnessed redemption and were simply astonished.

It is only right that God is worshipped. That requires worshippers – so God created.

It is right that every aspect of God's character is worshipped. That requires redemption.

So, every power – whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—Holy angels, fallen angels, lost men, saved men – all things have been created through Him and **for** Him.

So, it is a very good thing that God spoke and created.

All of this is just assumed by Paul.

And the point he starts with is that Jesus is King over all creation – **because He is the Creator**.

John 1:3:

All things were created through him, and apart from him **not one thing** was created that has been created.

Christ created **everything** – from nothing.

I can't understand this – I can only marvel at it.

When we speak of someone as creative – they don't start with nothing – they start with created stuff and fashion it. Not Jesus.

Angels are beings if we met one we would collapse in sheer amazement – created from nothing.

The universe is so big – we can't measure it – Isaiah – created from nothing.

Men and women are so complex that modern medicine barely understands the fringes of how wonderfully and fearfully we are made – created from nothing.

Christ made everything that is – from nothing.

We don't know how – we are incapable of grasping the merest fragment of how.

We just know that He did.

The fact that we exist – the creation exists – proves He is.

I exist – therefore He is.

He is – therefore I exist only at His pleasure and for His glory.

In all time, space and throughout the heavens and the earth – there are only two categories.

God and not God.

God through Christ – created everything – absolutely everything that is not God – and as Creator – He is King of everything not God.

And no not God is anything but dust and clay.

Satan – created being – thinks he is important.

Prime Minister Albanese – created being – thinks he has some importance.

Musk, Trump, Lebron – created beings – think they are important.

Craig Lloyd – created being – knows he is not important.

Jesus has absolute Creator rights to do as He pleases with everyone who is not God.

Romans 9:20–24:

Will what is formed say to the one who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" Or has the potter no right over the clay, to make from the same lump one piece of pottery for honor and another for dishonor? And what if God, wanting

to display his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much patience objects of wrath prepared for destruction? And what if he did this to make known the riches of his glory on objects of mercy that he prepared beforehand for glory.

Christ can and will do whatever brings the Father the most glory.

Paul says that what brings glory is:

Saving some.

Judging some.

But why is He the King over Creation?

Paul says – it is not just because He created – but because He is the image of the invisible God.

What does this mean?

When we hear image – we think picture.

An image of someone is a picture, a sculpture – a visual representation.

But that is not really what Paul means – because how do you visually image an invisible God – a God who is spirit?

Image does have a few connotations but the main one is an image represents or stands in for the authority of another.

Adam and Eve were created in God's image. This doesn't mean we are to think that God looks human – that Michealangelo got it right in the Sistine chapel.

It is more that an image represents something.

Our flag represents our country – this does not mean that from space Australia looks like a giant flag.

Adam and Eve created in the likeness of God – represented God.

Image does also mean that in them many of the characteristics of God were represented – self-awareness, personality, volition, relational.

But image as representative seems to primarily have the idea of one who stands for God as King, heir, ruler.

Genesis 1:27–28:

So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be

fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. **Rule** the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

Created in His image to rule over God’s creation.

That is why Adam, Israel, David are said to be the image of God.

But, don’t think Adam was the first image of God.

Adam is actually an image of **the** image.

The true image – the eternal image is Christ.

There is one true image of God – Jesus – all other images are patterned on Him.

Just as He is eternally the Son – so He is eternally the image bearer.

But if Jesus is only manifest as a human image when He is born – how can Adam – as a man – be patterned after Christ who has not yet been born?

How most understand this is that God had planned out all history before there was a creation.

Isaiah 46:9–10:

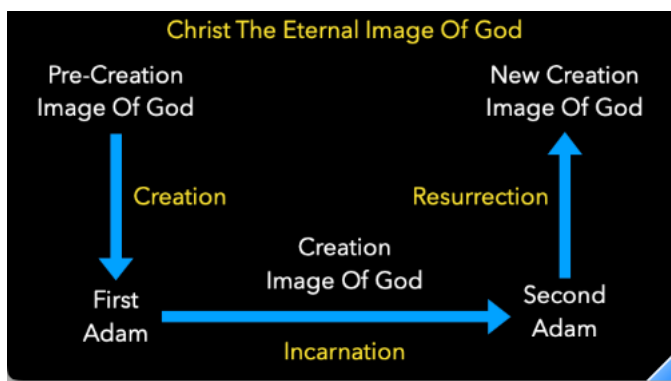
Remember what happened long ago, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and no one is like me. I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: my plan will take place, and I will do all my will.

This included the creation of man, the fall and the sending of Christ.

And the plan was always for Jesus as the image of God – to enter our world.

So, in the divine mind – He is always the image.

Paul seems to be saying something like this.



Christ is the eternal image of God.

Before there was a creation – He was the image of God.

Then at creation – the first Adam became a creaturely representation of the eternal image – the eternal Son of God. Adam was King of Creation.

But Adam and Eve were imperfect image bearers who sinned and failed to accurately reflect the image of God.

Thus, the need for a second Adam. In the fullness of time, the true image Himself became flesh through the incarnation.

He is the second and perfect Adam. But incredibly His Kingship was rejected.

Then at the resurrection – the image becomes what He will be for all eternity – Christ as the resurrected God-man.

And every knee will bow and finally acknowledge Him as King.

Christ will exist as this image in the new creation – God and man – for all eternity.

The Father planned all this before the world was created so from eternity, Jesus was the image bearer.

The idea of Christ as eternal image only becomes clear as the whole plan is unveiled.

When you are an author writing a novel – you can reveal parts of a character that only make sense when the book is finished.

Christ was always the image because the plan was always for Him to be the God-man.

So, Christ is the King over creation and in case we miss it – Paul makes it even more clear at the end of verse 15:

He is the firstborn over all creation.

Firstborn has nothing to do with being born.

The firstborn son is the heir – the ruler – the King.

Christ is the true King of creation.

But we are also to **marvel at Christ the Creator:**



The Agent of creation 16

Verse 16:

For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him.

I think there is abundant evidence of a Creator. The complexity, the design, the very fact that life exists screams – Creator.

The idea that something as complex as Penny Hudson came about by an explosion, by chance and time – I just don't buy it.

But who actually created the angels, the heavens, the earth, Penny?

The Jews just said – God.

But there are hints right there in Genesis 1 that God who created – exists as a Trinity.

Genesis 1:26:

God did not say, "Let **me** make man in **my** image, according to **my** likeness."

No!

God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, according to **our** likeness."

And in Genesis 1:2 we read that:

The **Spirit of God** was hovering over the surface of the waters.

However, it is not until the New Testament that it becomes clear that each person of the Trinity is involved in creation.

And that is how it has to be.

It is not as if the persons of the Trinity divided up the tasks and the task was only theirs:

The Father will create and sustain.

The Son will rule and redeem.

The Spirit will convict and condemn.

There is a sense in which every decision and act is participated in by all members of the Trinity.

When one member of the Godhead is involved in a work, then in some way all three members are active participants in it.

Theologians have to give every doctrine a name – this one is called – *the doctrine of inseparable operations*.

What is without doubt is each member of the Trinity is involved in Creation.

The Father Creates

Isaiah 44:24:

I am the LORD, who made everything; who stretched out the heavens by myself.

1 Corinthians 8:6:

There is one God, the Father. All things are from him, and we exist for him.

The Son Creates

John 1:3:

All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.

Hebrews 1:2:

God has appointed the Son heir of all things and made the universe through him.

The Spirit Creates

Psalms 33:6:

The heavens were made by the word of the LORD, and all the stars, by the breath *or Spirit* of his mouth.

Job 33:4:

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath – *or Spirit* – of the Almighty gives me life.

All the great confessions affirm the role of the Trinity in creation. Here is the London Baptist Confession:

In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ... to create or make the world.

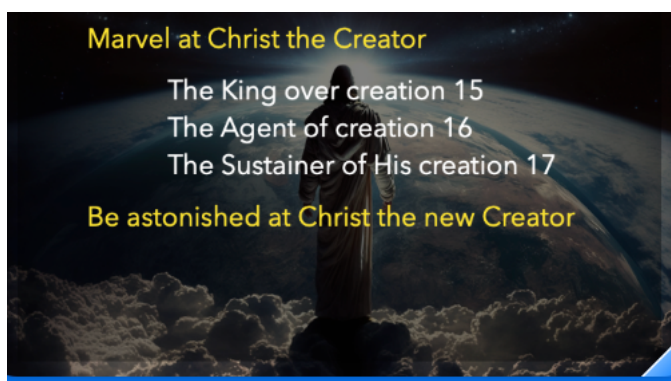
But, there is also a sense in which there are roles in every action carried out by members of the Trinity.

The New Testament seems to say that the member of the Godhead who is the main **agent** of Creation is the Son – Christ.

This is so imperfect – but there is a sense in which the **Father** is the **Author** of Creation, the **Son** the **Agent** of Creation and the **Spirit** the **One who gives life** to the Creation – but at the same time all members of the Trinity are involved in each aspect of creation.

We don't have to understand it – just marvel at it.

But we are also to **marvel at Christ the Creator**:



The Sustainer of His creation 17

Verse 17:

He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.

Only the One who was before all things – God – can hold all things together.

Sustaining is just as much God work as creating.

If Christ did not sustain every atom and molecule and photon and particle in the creation – it would implode.

Everything about our universe screams that it was created by God and He preserves and sustains it.

Change almost anything about our world – even the smallest bit and life as we know it *cannot* exist.

The earth is 146 million kilometres from the sun. Even a few million kilometres closer and we would end up with a runaway greenhouse effect raising surface temperatures to 400 degrees Celsius.

Move the earth a few million kilometres further away and the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would freeze initiating a cycle of ice and cold that would kill all life.

Unlike most of the other planets in the Solar System, Earth has an almost perfectly circular orbit. Become any more elliptical and the temperature changes would destroy life.

If the moon did not remain at the exact same distance from the earth, the ocean tides would completely inundate the land twice a day.

If the ocean floor merely slipped a few feet deeper, the carbon dioxide and oxygen balance in the earth's atmosphere would be completely upset, and no vegetable or animal life could exist on earth.

The magnetic field that surrounds the earth is at exactly the right strength to stop the solar winds stripping our atmosphere into space.

If our atmosphere did thin out, many of the meteors that now harmlessly burn up when they hit our atmosphere would constantly bombard us.

The fact that there is life on earth is a miracle of creation.

The fact that life is sustained is a miracle of preservation.

The world thinks we got really lucky. For billions of years chance has stopped any small change that would wipe out all life from occurring.

That is faith – but blind foolhardy faith.

The evidence says – our Lord sustains His creation.

The great question is why?

He created a beautiful, good world.

He put Adam and Eve in the garden.

They lack nothing.

He has showered them with every possible blessing.

Adam is His image – King of creation – and Adam chooses sin – He chooses to rebel – and because the King is corrupted – the entire creation is corrupted.

I simply have no words – no analogies to describe the horror of this.

God the Creator is perfect in power, wisdom, goodness. He gifts Adam – this mere created being – with everything.

Adam disobeys God. Adam wants to be like God.

Justice and holiness demand Adam, Eve the corrupt creation be banished to the lake of fire there and then – the crime is infinitely horrendous.

But, Christ chooses not to destroy – but to sustain.

Why?

So, He can redeem a people to glorify the splendour and power and grace of God – and marvel at Him for all eternity.

And so – the Creator chooses to not only sustain – but to redeem His fallen creation.

The Bible says that at this point the angels are all going – what? No! They can't fathom this.

They can't fathom that Adam was allowed one more breath.

They can't fathom that God would even contemplate redeeming such minor creatures as us – especially after we rebelled.

But you want angelic mind blowing – 1 Peter 1:12 says – this is something angels long to have even a glimpse of understanding.

The Creator chooses to redeem the creation – but to do this He must enter the creation.

Creation is marvellous – everything from nothing.

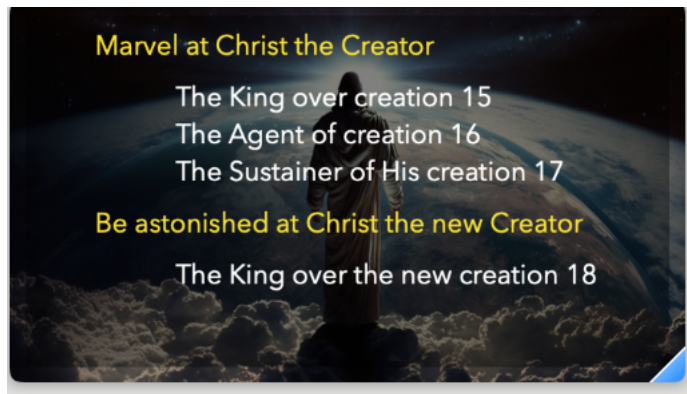
The trillions of stars and galaxies.

The complexity and beauty and wonder of life.

You look at the stars, a sunset, a lion – and you know – there is a Creator. You just worship Him.

But as great as Creation is – what came next is so much greater.

Be astonished at Christ the new Creator



The King over the new creation 18

Colossians 1:18:

He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

He is King over all creation – but **also** King over those He redeems from the creation.

In eternity past Christ wrote names in the Lamb's book of life.

These are the new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

They are the ones who will be redeemed out of the fallen creation to worship and glorify God forever.

In the divine mind – the objects of His redeeming love were always known. Ephesians 1:4–5:

For he chose us in him, **before the foundation of the world**, to be holy and blameless in love before him. He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, **according to the good pleasure of his will**.

He created the world – that makes Him King of the world.

But, He is also head, King, Lord of this new group He saved out of the world – the church – the new creation.

Just as the first creation had a beginning – so does the new creation.

It begins when Christ is raised from the dead – as the firstborn – the firstfruits – the head of those who will be raised.

You are called to be a new creation – you are a new creation – but you are not fully the new creation – until you are raised.

And Jesus is the ruler – the King of those who are also raised with Him.

He didn't just create us – He redeemed us.

Imagine a boy who spends hundreds of hours making a detailed model sailing boat.

He takes it to the lake to test it out but a sudden storm hits and the boat is swept away.

He searches for days in vain.

But sometime later he is walking past a second-hand shop and there in the window he spies his boat. Beaten up – badly damaged – but his boat.

He pleads his case in vain with the owner of the store.

The owner says someone found it and sold it to me. It is mine – you have to buy it.

So, he sets to work cleaning, mowing, washing for the neighbours – watching as his jar fills with coins.

Finally, he has enough. He buys his boat back.

He spends hours restoring it – better than new.

Then he says to it – **I made you, I bought you, I restored you – you better know – in every way you are mine!**

It is an analogy – but it is so imperfect.

The Creator can never lose Creator rights.

The boy can't become a boat – which is then destroyed to save the battered little boat.

If that was the story I told – you would scoff – seems ridiculous – it is just a boat. A boy would not give his life for a boat – he would make another one.

But what is actually ridiculous is that the distance between Christ and you is so much greater than between boy and boat.

We don't like that – we like to focus on fearfully and wonderfully made, pinnacle of creation – as if we are important.

Well the Bible says – forget a boat – you are nothing more than a lump of clay.

No analogy goes close to the stunning reality of Christ redeeming us.

But as redeemer of the church – Christ rightfully has first place in everything.

What does this mean for us?

He is Creator – we are clay – ours is to obey even when we can't understand.

Do I have to understand the Trinity or the cross to believe it? No.

There are doctrines parts of me struggle with.

Complementarianism. Men given the loving servant leadership in the home and the church.

There are parts of this we might not understand.

Non-Christians don't get it so scoff at it. They suppress the truth and rebel.

But then I meet Christians who say – it doesn't make sense to me – I don't like it – it seems archaic and wrong.

Well, you don't have to like it or understand it – but if the Creator Redeemer says this is wise – it is for your good and the good of the church and society – you do it because He has the first place in everything.

Look, there are commands and parts of the Bible I struggle with. Hell, the fate of those who never heard, war in the Old Testament – but I know the goodness and power of God – and His ways are always right and just.

More than that – He is my King.

In fact, Christ is my twice King – He made me and He redeemed me – it is right to give Him first place in everything.

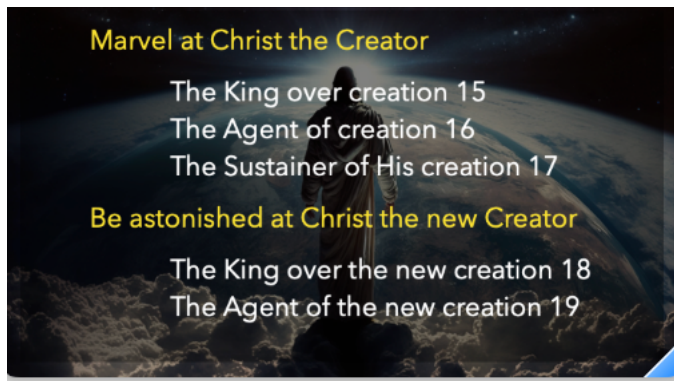
But, I think there is even more in this verse.

The new creation begins at the resurrection of Christ.

It is fulfilled at the Second Coming, the judgment and the new heavens and new earth.

At that time this creation is renewed – heaven comes down – and Christ will be head over **that** new creation – forever.

Be astonished at Christ the new Creator



The Agent of the new creation 19

Verse 19:

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

This is a truth I can't even begin to get my head around.

There are two categories – God and not God.

But to save us Jesus has to become a whole new category – God who becomes part of the not God.

This is what it took to save you.

When Jesus was born He became the Son of David – without ceasing to be the Son of God.

A divine man. God in human flesh.

In Jesus all the fullness of deity dwelt in Him.

He was man without ceasing to be fully God.

Don't try and understand it – just marvel in it.

He is the perfect image of God.

John 1:14:

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

We are meant to be totally astonished at this.

How can the Creator become a creature?

How can God – who is spirit and present everywhere and at every time – God – who is outside and above His creation – enter it – and not even in power – but in the humility of becoming a creature.

The immortal becomes mortal.

Philippians 2:6–7:

Christ Jesus who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity.

Tolkien could write himself into Lord of the Rings as a hobbit who is at the mercy of cruel orcs.

But he is not that hobbit – he is not truly in the hands of those orcs.

But Jesus did enter the creation – fully human – and was subject to the sinful actions of his creatures.

He is God who lives in unapproachable light – too holy to look on evil.

He became man – and was subject to the evil of His creation.

It is simply impossible, unimaginable – it is why the Jews steadfastly refused to believe it.

We don't care how many miracles you do. We don't care you rose from the dead.

Flesh can't be God.

The very concept is offensive to Muslims.

I can't answer how God became man.

I have some insight as to why. And it is just stunning.

John 3:16:

For God **loved** the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15:

Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners**.

This is what it took to redeem.

God cannot violate His divine nature. His justice must be satisfied.

The only way to satisfy His justice was for His Son to become human – live a perfect life – die a sacrificial death – and rise from the dead.

And those who are united to Him in faith are united in His death – the wrath of God falls and justice is satisfied – and they are united to His resurrection.

It is simply so astonishing angels watch in awe and can't understand it.

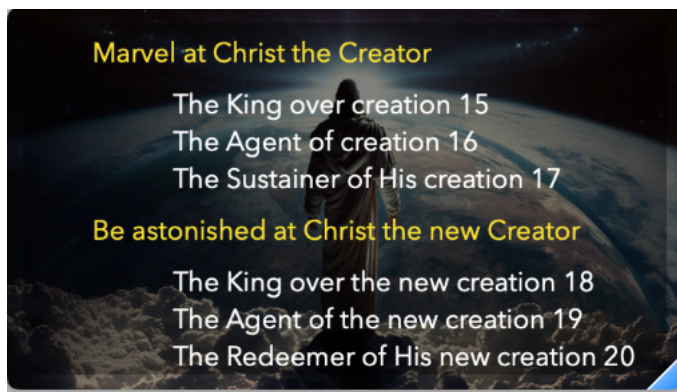
The redeemed will sing of it eternally and never tire of it.

Look – the evidence for a Creator is everywhere.

The evidence for the Creator become creature is seen in His miracles, His resurrection, the church.

Don't reject – bow the knee and live.

Finally, **be astonished at Christ the new Creator**



The Redeemer of His new creation 20

Colossians 1:20:

And through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

This is the high point of why God created.

The only reason Christ sustained the creation after Adam fell – is to redeem it.

Reconciling everything does not mean all men are reconciled. Every part of the creation will be reconciled. The cross brings peace – either by redemption or judgment.

Romans 8 says the whole creation groans waiting to be freed from bondage and we wait for the redemption of our bodies.

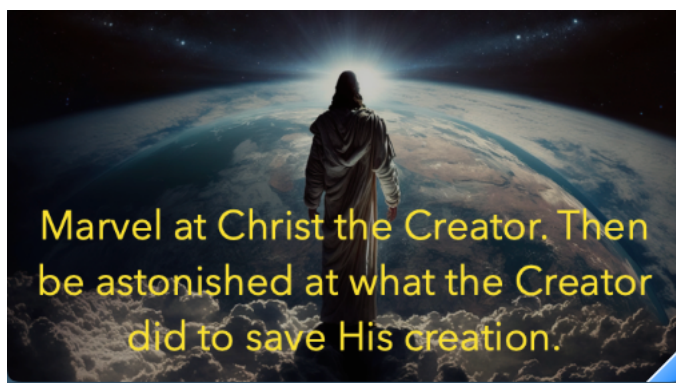
In John 17:1-5 – Jesus prayed.

Father. The hour has come. The reason I came into the world is at hand. Glorify Me in the cross and in the resurrection – so I may glorify you by redeeming those You gave Me. That is the work you gave Me to do. Then restore me to the glory of heaven in Your presence.

The death of Christ makes possible the redemption of the fallen cosmos and the redemption of those given to Jesus before the foundation of the world.

He does the impossible – He reconciles everything to himself – heaven and earth – through His blood shed on the cross – then heaven will come to the redeemed earth – and the redeemed people will enter and enjoy God forever.

Christ is Creator.



Marvel at Christ the Creator. Then be astonished at what the Creator did to save His creation.

Isaiah 64:8:

You are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we all are the work of your hands.

We exist only because He spoke.

We continue to exist only because He wills it.

There is not one molecule on the planet at the farthest end of the universe that has a right to defy the Creator.

Our only response is to marvel.

We will continue to marvel into eternity.

Revelation 4:9–11:

The twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever.

They cast their crowns before the throne and say, Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, **because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.**

We marvel at the power and wisdom of creation forever.

But wait there is so much more.

The Word became flesh – Creator became creature.

He allowed the creation to kill Him – to save His own.

And that is what every holy angel and every one of the redeemed will be astonished at forever.

Revelation 5:9–12:

And they sang a **new** song:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, **because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

The first song is creation – the new song is redemption.

The glory of God in creation is to be marvelled at.

The glory of God in redemption is so astounding – no angel, no saint – will ever get over it.

Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.

Why? To redeem you and present you to the Father.

Brothers and sisters, you will not get to stand before your Maker in this life.

But in the world to come everyone – man, woman and child will stand before the One who is their Creator.

But for each of us – He will also bear one other title – either **Redeemer** or **Judge**.

We will either glorify God forever as the redeemed or glorify Him forever by suffering His just judgment.

But the unbelievable truth is this – the Creator not only chooses who are His – He calls on us to choose Him.

He says:

Choose Him now and live.

Choose Him now and enjoy Him forever.

Choose Him now because this fallen world is not the end.

Whether you believe Jesus is Creator and King or not – He **is** the Creator and King – and by faith – the Redeemer.

The day is coming when He will return to assert His right to rule over every last atom of His creation.

You will meet your Creator.

I beg you – don't meet Him as judge. If you have not bowed the knee – speak with me I beseech you.

Meet Him as Redeemer – and enjoy Him and Glorify Him forever.

10 Looks Look 2 – Creator (4 Aug 2024)

Marvel at Christ the Creator. Then be astonished at what the Creator did to save His creation.

General Questions:

1. Why are concepts like before creation, God in eternity past, and the act of creation so hard for us to understand?
2. Did God need to create – why or why not?
3. So why did God create?
4. What does it mean – Christ is the image of the invisible God?
5. What does it mean – He is the firstborn from the dead?
6. Who created? What is the role of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?
7. What is the evidence there is a Creator?
8. Why is sustaining act of God?
9. Why did God sustain the universe after the fall?
10. Why do all the analogies for Christ as Redeemer fail at some point?
11. Why is the concept of Creator who becomes creature near impossible to grasp?
12. Why is it something that angels and the redeemed will marvel at for all eternity?

Application Questions:

What convicted me in the message?

What moved me in the message?

What will I do in light of the message?

1. How do you marvel at what you can't understand?
2. How do you obey what you don't understand?
3. How can you worship and glorify your Creator in this life?