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THE NEW CREATION (PART TWO)**

Greetings in the name of our faithful God- the One whose love endures forever and whose grace never ends!

Our prayer is that you are all experiencing the salvation that Jesus Christ was manifested to give to us!

While many like to welcome in the New Year in different ways, every New Year's Eve Shannon and I like to pray in the New Year's! What we like to do is spend a concentrated time in prayer where we begin by thanking & praising God for all that He has done for us in the previous year and then we strategically select things we desire to see from God in the New Year to come. Of course, we do not limit Him by asking for just what we can see Him doing. We ask BIG! We ask Him for the desires of our heart, knowing that He is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all we could ever ask or think! But, as Ephesians 3:20 goes on to say: He is only able to do this according to the power that works within us! In other words, we are the variable- not God. He is certainly able to do anything, but it is not a matter of what He can do; it is a matter of what you can believe He can do! For all things are possible to those that believe!

And let me assure you of something- This works! When we get out of our comfort zone or our small way of thinking and begin to believe God to do all that He can do and has promised He will do, we will see the miraculous and faithful provision of our Heavenly Father! Shannon and I have seen this happen time and time again! And this past month, we have seen it yet again...

We are so very pleased to announce that we have purchased our very first home! Let me give you the details of how this came to pass...

Last year, during our New Year's Eve prayer time, one of the things that we asked the Lord for was for Him to provide us with the home He had for us. You see, we have been renting for the first 6 and a half years of our marriage because partially we were not in the financial position to be home owners, but also because we did not want to put down roots when we did not know where God was going to plant our ministry. Well, in the past year or two, we have seen that God certainly has a call on our lives to this middle GA area and so we decided to "broaden our stakes and stretch out our tents." So on New Year's Eve of 2011, Shannon and I asked Him to give us our home in 2012.

Well, we closed on December the 14th! Praise the Lord! And God did good! The home is extremely spacious and very homey- a huge step up for our family. So we praise God for giving us our first house that I personally consider to be the best deal that there was in Macon for value versus price. He, as any good father, knows how to provide good things for His children! Praise be unto God!

Well, as for this month's teaching, I want us to continue with what we studied last month concerning the New Creation that we have been made in Christ.

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Let's quickly review what we discussed last time... Last month, we began in 2 Corinthians 5:17 which says that when we were born again, we were made a new creation in Christ where old things had passed away and all things had become new. We then went back to Genesis chapter 1 and began to study the account of the original creation, understanding that the things which were written in the Old Testament are types and shadows of that which is to come under our new and better covenant. So we studied the first day of creation from the perspective of what we were before coming to Christ and then the process of our salvation. If you did not get a chance to read last month's message, we believe that it is well worth your time to read. You can access it through our website at www.treydickerson.com or by simply contacting us.

Well, we ended last month by discussing how God made us the light of the world and then separated us from the dark and perverse generation around us. But I want you to notice that when God began the second day's work of creation that there is another division that occurs in the new creation...

DIVIDING ASUNDER

Genesis 1:6-8 says, "Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.' Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day."

You see, this is another division that occurs in the new creation... Not only are we sanctified from the darkness of the world around us, but there is a division that occurs within us to where our new man is separated from our old nature. And this is what is happening here... God placed an "expanse" (i.e. firmament) between the waters to where there were waters above the firmament and to where there were waters below the firmament. This was the formation of the sky and atmosphere around us and God called it "heaven." Now, of course, this is not the heaven where God and His saints dwell. This is the atmospheric heavens surrounding the earth like a dome- as some call, the first or second heavens. But here is the point: God separated the waters that were under the earth from the waters that were above the earth, and I believe that this is a type of the separation of our soul and our spirit.

You do know that we are a three part being- spirit, soul, and body- right? So God had to make a distinction between who we are in the spirit and who we are in our souls when we were born again. Our spirit- the part of us that is seated in the heavenly places right now and positionally has already been sanctified, justified, and glorified- was raised up to a place where the heavens pervade it! Heaven itself has been released into your spirit and you are not operating as "just a man" anymore. You have the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus resident in the new creation, right now! So guess what? You don't have to walk like the rest of the world walks. You don't have to accept the limitations of your flesh. You can mount up on wings as the eagle and fly above these carnal tendencies that you have in your flesh, for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made you free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).

I love using the analogy of the law of gravity versus the law of lift... There is a law of gravity that all of creation is subject to. Likewise, there is the law of sin and death that all men are subject to while on the earth. But there is another law that we have discovered in the last century that supersedes this law of gravity, and it

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is called the law of lift. We have discovered that when we apply enough power, that we can rise above the law of gravity. Likewise, God has given us the necessary power- the new nature and the Holy Spirit- that work together to enable us to live unlike the world around us! This is the power of the new creation! It has the power to lift us on a higher plane than most people on earth walk in. Our spirit has resident in it all the power, strength, and glory of the risen Christ Himself! So to learn to live out of that new nature where the kingdom of heaven dwells is to learn to let heaven pour out those showers of blessings on our soul and body and everything that we come in contact with, and when this happens, day three occurs...

RESURRECTION LIFE

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth’; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day.” (Genesis 1:9-13)

In these verses, we see how God raised the earth up out of the waters that submerged it and then how the earth began to be clothed with vegetation. Now this to me is an obvious antitype of the resurrection life that we experience upon salvation!

You see, we understand that it was on the third day that our Savior was raised from the dead. So it should be of no surprise to us that in God’s infinite wisdom and understanding, he would foreshadow the third day of creation in like manner. And that is exactly what He did! He brought forth the first signs of life on the third day of His original creation to show us how the life of God comes in our life as a result of His working on the third day.

You see, it is only because of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior that we experience new life! As great as His workings on the Cross were, everything He did when He died would have been incomplete if not for His resurrection after death. The reason for this is because the Cross is when He took our sin & death from us, but the resurrection is when He gave His life & resurrection to us. In other words, one of these events alone would not have completed the work of salvation. Just as in water baptism, we must not only be buried in the likeness of His death, but we must also be raised up in the likeness of His resurrection. But sadly many believers who have been legitimately saved just stay at the Cross- meaning they only focus on and embrace the solution for their sin. In other words, they only understand their freedom from the penalty of sin, but they fail to understand how Jesus made provision for their freedom from the dominion of sin as well! And this is exactly what the resurrection accomplished! It produced in us the very life of God to where we do not continue to wallow around in sin but that we are raised up to walk in newness of life! Hallelujah! Now, just as the vegetation and fruit sprang forth out of the earth on the third day, we are capable of bearing fruit for God and experiencing His life everyday!

Notice how with both the grass and the trees, there is the mention of their seed being in themselves... This

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is one of the main reasons why there is the necessity of being born again. It is because we must receive God's seed before we can bear His fruit. We will never be able to bear good fruit if we do not have His seed on the inside of us because, as these verses say, every tree reproduces after its own kind. You see, we must be born again after "His kind" in order to bear "His kind" of fruit! And this is the only kind of fruit that is acceptable in His eyes- fruit after His kind.

But again, what happened on day number three is dependent on what God created on day number two! The waters had to be separated and prepared to water the earth that came on the third day! So the heavenly new nature had to be placed into Christ followers so that we can produce the life of God and bear His kind of fruit! Thank you Jesus!

TWO GREAT LIGHTS

Then (on the fourth day) God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the Day from the Night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness, And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day." (Genesis 1:14-19)

Now the two great lights that God created- one to rule over the day and the other to rule over the night- are obviously what we call the Sun and the Moon. But what do these represent in regards to the new creation? Well, the Bible is explicit that we are now in the season of night on the earth because of the sin and curse that was ushered in during the Fall, but the Day is coming when Jesus returns from heaven and establishes His kingdom here on the earth again. This is when He, the Son of God- being called the "Sun of righteousness"- will rule over the Day. But right now we are in darkness and these Scriptures tell us that God has given a lesser light to rule over the night. And what do you reckon the moon is a type of? The moon is a type of us, the church- the bride of Christ.

You see, although we spoke last month of how God placed the light on the inside of us and how we have been made the light of the world just as Jesus said He is the light of the world, this does not mean that we are the originators of that light. You see, we are like the moon... The moon has no light in and of itself. The light that it radiates is simply a reflection of the light given by the Sun. Likewise; we reflect the glory of the Son and are capable of giving light to the whole earth that abides in darkness. This shows our purpose collectively... The church is meant to give light to the world and to rule over the night! This obviously speaks of our influence and our authority! We are called to bring to light the knowledge of God to this dark and perverse generation through our example and words. We are called to take dominion and drive out the darkness around us- whether that is sin, sickness, disease, oppression, depression, etc.

You see, darkness should not be ruling over the church; the church should be ruling over darkness! We have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and have been translated into the kingdom of light! Therefore, we are above only and not beneath! We are meant to reign over death and darkness as the Moon is above all that is on the earth and gives light to it.

THE SABBATH

Now, for time's sake, let's skip ahead to the seventh day of God's original creation because there is an important point I want us to conclude with this month regarding the new creation...

Genesis 2:1-3 says, "Thus the heavens and the earth and all the host of them were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

Now it is important to understand that God did not "rest" in the sense that we think of resting. When we think of resting, we think of recuperating because we are fatigued and tired. But this is not what is implied here... God rested on the seventh day, not because He was weary and exhausted; He rested because the work was finished and complete! There was nothing left to do. God had created the heavens and earth and all that is within them and saw that it was all "very good" (1:31). It was finished!

And this is what we need to understand about the principle of the seventh day in regards to the new creation- that when we were made a new creation in Christ that His work in us is complete! Therefore, we are not a work in progress; His work of grace in our spirit is finished!

This is why Jesus said on the Cross, just before He gave up His spirit, that "It is finished!" He was saying that the price that needed to be paid for our salvation was complete! He was saying that what He hung on that Cross to accomplish was sufficient! Nothing else needed to be done! The price needful for our redemption had been fully satisfied and our salvation is now complete!

Paul made a great statement that beautifully illustrates this point... In Ephesians 1:13, he said that when we believed on the truth- the gospel of our salvation- that we were "sealed" with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Now this word "sealed" holds a significant meaning... In those days, when a package of some sort was being sent out, it was inspected thoroughly. Its contents were examined to make sure that it was complete- that nothing was missing and nothing was broken. And after it was thoroughly examined to make sure that no defective or poorly made product was being sent out, they would impress on the outside of the package their seal signifying that the product contained within was perfect and complete. This seal also provided another very important detail... It assured that the package would reach its final destination, because to mess with the seal made by the signet ring of someone highly important was like messing with that person themselves. Therefore, to be sealed with the Spirit after we believed is to signify that we are complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10), that we have peace with God (i.e. nothing missing and nothing broken), and that we are eternally secure! Hallelujah! Therefore, we can rest in all the works that Christ has done for us! He has paid the price and done everything that needs to be done in regards to our salvation!

In fact, the number seven in Biblical numerology describes "perfection and completion." Thus our salvation and the new creation we were made is perfect and complete! There is nothing left undone! God

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made all things good in the beginning and God has made all the things that are new in us good! When God looked over all that He had made, He said it was very good! Likewise, God looks at His work in us and says it is very good! Praise the Lord!

So just to recap, we have seen that God not only separated us from the lost and dying world that we dwelt in, but He separated us from ourselves. He filled our spirits with heaven itself and raised us up to sit together with Him in the heavenly places while the rest of us is still attached to the earth awaiting redemption. But out of this new nature is meant to flow rivers of living water into our outward man which causes the resurrection life of God to flow into our body and our soul and brings forth fruit that remains! Thus we have light and we have life because of the new creation! But also in the new creation comes a collective blessing... We are all together comprised as God's church- a reflection of the glory of the Son- meant to rule over the night and darkness. Therefore, we saw that we have authority and dominion over this dark and evil world that we live in. Last but not least, we saw that as God rested on the seventh day, we can rest in the finished work of Christ. Nothing else needs to be done in the new creation. We are complete! We are approved! We are very good!

So the next time you look at yourself in the mirror, you look at yourself and say, "You are a new creation in Christ! God approves of you and has made you just the way He wants you to be! You are complete and you are very good!" This is the rest of the New Creation- to know that God has finished the work!

Selah!

Victoriously,

