

Series: Creation Care

It's Fallen But It Will Get Up

Sunday April 24, 2016

1. *Hear the word of the Lord, you Israelites, because the Lord has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying, and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Because of this **the land mourns**, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying"* (Hos. 4:1-4).

2. *The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed... in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay...* (Ro. 8:18, 20).

3. *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel* (Col. 1:21-23).

4. Ordo Salutis: justification, sanctification, glorification.

5. *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!* (Ro. 5:1, 9).

6. *He who began a good work in you will complete it at the day of Jesus Christ... God is the one who is at work in you both to will and to do his good pleasure* (Phil. 1:6; 2:13).

7. *Now, if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory* (Ro. 8:17).

8. *Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body* (Phil. 3:20-21).

9. What does it mean that God will glorify us?

- a. We will be glorified with Christ (Ro. 8:17).
- b. We will receive glorified bodies (Phil. 3:21).

Study Notes

DISCUSSION

1. What's one thing you've learned or been reminded about in this series that has impacted your thinking and behavior?

2. Did you do something last week that was an intentional act of creation care? How did it go?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Read Rev. 11:18. What does this verse say about those who destroy the earth? What might this imply about our accountability as believers to care for the earth?

4. Read John 3:16. The Greek word for "world" in this verse is "kosmos." John uses this term 78 times in his gospel with various meanings (ie. the universe, the earth, the people on earth, most people, people opposed to God, the human system opposed to God's purposes). He moves without explanation from one meaning to the other. In context – what do you think "kosmos" means in this verse?

APPLICATION

5. Check out this ad. from Colgate re. water conservation. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGTPoEGL7tA>

What effect did it have on you? Will you turn the water off while brushing your teeth when you aren't using it to rinse? Why? Why not?

6. What are you prepared to do about CREATION CARE as a regular habit in your daily and weekly living?