

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

You Must be Born Again!

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com (blog)

www.lightfordarktimes.com (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

Will We See Sadie Again: What Does the Bible Say about the Creation, Old and New?

[Part 2]

May 28, 2023

Sermon Text: Romans 8:18-23

Scripture Reading: Revelation 18

Eph 1:9-10 ...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ (10) as a plan for the fullness of time, *to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

We began last time to consider, to the degree our limited minds are able, the extent and fullness of

Christ's redemption. We saw from Romans 8 that *man and the entire creation are linked*. So that when man fell, all creation fell. All creation came under the curse – not in the same way as man, but in that the effects of the fall swept through all of the creation. Death not only came upon man, it came upon all living things. Animals, like our dog Sadie, die. She didn't sin. The animals don't sin. And yet they die, they grow ill, they get killed by other animals. Things are not right. They are not as they were in Eden.

In Christ, as we see here in Ephesians 1:10, it is God's intent to take us to Eden once again. Paul put it this way, "*to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.*" Listen to John Calvin explain it: [All quotes of Calvin are from John Calvin's Sermons on Ephesians, Banner of Truth Trust]-

As for this word ‘gather,’ St. Paul meant to show us thereby how we are all of us in a state of dreadful dissipation, until such time as our Lord Jesus Christ restores us. And this has reference not only to us, but also *to all other creatures*. In brief, it is as though he had said that *the whole order of nature is as good as defaced, and all things decayed and disordered by the sin of Adam until we are restored in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ*. For although we see God’s wonderful wisdom, power, goodness, justice, and righteousness in all creatures, nevertheless there are marks of sin both high and low, *and all creatures are subject to corruption, and all is disordered because God hates and rejects us* [ie, man outside of Christ].

Rom 8:20-22 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the

children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

The restoration has therefore to be made by Jesus Christ. And that is what is meant by the gathering together of which St. Paul speaks here (Eph 1:10), in order that we should learn to hate ourselves and to be ashamed of the confusion that is in ourselves and with which the whole world is filled through man’s sinful life; and, moreover, learn also to magnify God’s goodness so much the more.

On the one hand, then, the Holy Spirit warns us in this text not only that we ourselves are in a state of dissipation, but also that *we have brought the whole world to the same state and keep it there daily by our sins, and that there is no other remedy but for Jesus Christ to repair everything and make such a gathering and union that we may be joined again to our God*.

And Calvin goes on further-

This then is the first point we have to note in this passage (Eph 1:10). It is true that this thing is said in few words [*“to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”*]...but it needs to be pondered at greater length. For it is the thing about which we ought to be employed both early and late, that when we look at ourselves [Calvin’s ‘we’ and ‘us’ here refers to mankind outside of Christ, as we were before we knew Christ]...we might think in this way – ‘Who are you, O wretched creature? For you see that you are separated from your God even from your birth. Look, you are his enemy and inheritor of his wrath, and furthermore, there is nothing in yourself which does not tend to evil and perverseness. You ought not only to feel this disorder in your own person, *but also to perceive that everything else in creation is out of order throughout the whole world because of your perverseness.*

Therefore, let us abase ourselves and be ashamed, and at the same time confess how much we are

indebted to God for His promising to gather us together in the person of His only Son – even us who have so torn to pieces the things He had set in such good order.”

Do you begin to understand then why I have assigned this title – *Will We See Sadie Again?* It is because of *death* that we are driven to ponder these questions – that is if we are in a right mind. Only a mind that is blinded and in hostility to God will suppress these subjects. The death and decay and all that is wrong around us in this world is meant to drive us to Jesus Christ.

Here the text once more:

Rom 8:18-23 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (19) **For the creation waits** with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. (20) **For the creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope (21) **that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption**

and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (22) For we know that **the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.** (23) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Consider then man's wickedness in refusing to admit to the continuing loudspeaker sounding all around him – *things are not right in this creation and it is YOUR sin that did it!*

Rom 1:18-23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (19) For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So

they are without excuse. (21) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Claiming to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Suppress it! Hold it down! Deny it!
This is what man in his sin does.

NOTE: How do YOU respond to these truths? This is God's own Word? Are you cut to the quick by it? Do you love His Word or do you hate it? How did you react when you heard Calvin explain it? Listen again and be honest with yourself -

“Who are you, O wretched creature? For you see that you are separated from your God even from your birth. Look, you are his enemy and inheritor of his wrath, and furthermore, there is nothing in yourself which does not tend to evil and perverseness. You ought not

only to feel this disorder in your own person, *but also to perceive that everything else in creation is out of order throughout the whole world because of your perverseness.*

Consider an application in our own day then. What does man in his sin so commonly do in respect to nature? *He worships it. Not only does he refuse to admit that the entire creation has gone wrong because of his sin, he denies that anything is wrong with the creation at all and if man would just stop drilling for oil or logging off the trees or milking cows, the creation would be just fine.* Now, such people are right in identifying man as the problem, but they have got the nature of man's pollution wrong. Man has polluted the creation – *with his sin.* THERE is the problem. And thus they have the remedy wrong – Christ is the only cure.

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all

sinned—

In the end, the nature worshipper is his or her own god. He refuses to acknowledge his Creator whose existence and power is clearly seen in the creation.

Gen 3:13-19 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” (14) The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

(15) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (16) To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

(17) And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.** (19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

See it? *The curse extends to the creation. As much as we still see beauty in the creation, the fact is that it suffers under the curse because of man’s sin. The creation is not right. The creation is not natural – it has gone wrong.*

*Nature, the creation, does not create and evolve. It de-velopes. It is in a state of corruption and decay. It is filled with death. It resists man. It is, as Paul put it, **groaning** under the burden of the curse.*

And therefore, it is necessary that for God to put things right once more, to take us back to Eden and even a better place than the first Eden, His plan of redemption had to include not only the redemption of His elect, but of the entire creation. And this is why I was pondering the question-

Will we see Sadie again?

That is to say, what will the new heavens and earth be like? How far-reaching must Christ’s redemption be!!

Rev 21:1-5 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4)

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

He is making all things new. This is surely what Jesus meant –

Joh 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Now, let's examine ourselves. *Just how do we view this present world?* The fact is that it is all we have known, humanly speaking. This world. This present earthly life. Life in a death-filled and fallen world. In some sense I suppose man just goes from day to day

trying “to make the best of it.” Telling himself all is well. Focusing himself upon the “stuff” of this world. People are “into” various things. But ultimately as we see the years of our lives playing out, all these things vaporize. They come to nothing. That is why the Lord tells us this:

1Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

The Bible, particularly in the book of Revelation, calls unbelievers *earth-dwellers*. Their world is this present world. Their home is this present residence. And how they will weep and wail when they see it all coming down around them, just as we read in Revelation 18 earlier.

So, where are you? Are you an earth-dweller, or are you groaning for the full redemption to come when every remnant of the curse is gone and the New Creation comes? Where is your mind set?

Col 3:1-4 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

The old hymn-writer had it right-

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

This then, is the marvelous extent of the redemption effected for us and the entire creation in Jesus Christ –

Col 1:15-20 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: (16) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (17) And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (18) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

(19) For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; (20) And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him **to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.**

Do you believe this? Or are you so enmeshed in this present world that your life is really only defined by meat and potatoes and “stuff” here below? Christ has become the curse for us so that we might be the

children of God in Him and be finally and fully brought back to Eden.

Will we see Sadie again? My conclusion is, for Christ's real people, yes we will. It is only my conclusion drawn from the fact that Christ's redemption redeems the entire creation. It is certain that we will see all human beings who have departed this life in Christ again. That is very plain in Scripture. But this groaning creation awaits to be restored as well. And so it shall be.