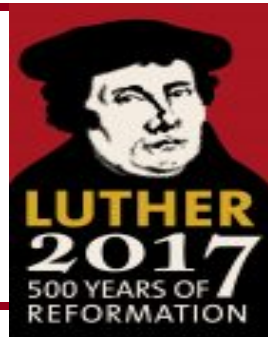


Christ the Creator & Reconciler

Psalm 90 Colossians 1:15-19 Mark 4:35-41

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In a recent survey, only 19% of pastors¹ believe the creation account of Genesis 1! **19%!** *If you remember last week, a survey said that only 33% of all Christians believe God created the heavens and the earth.* Evolution is a powerful delusion: some form of evolution has crept in to their thinking and they no longer believe what God's Word teaches about the creation of the world. They have abandoned Scripture and shipwrecked their faith. St. Paul warned us about following the false theories and errant ideas of the world:

Let no one **deceive** you with **empty words**, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. EPHESIANS 5:6

If you have been **deceived** by the world and misled by the **empty words** of evolution, then turn away from it; humble yourself and line yourself up with the Word of God! The danger is that you are blatantly disregarding Holy Scripture, you deny God's Word, and you doubt that God is telling the truth. The various theories of Evolution are *satanic attacks* on Christ, His Word, and His Kingdom. Satan has successfully led millions of people away from Christ by denying creation, and apparently **81% of pastors have been deceived and misled by the empty words of evolution.**

The doctrine of creation is an article of faith that begins with Christ. **Because we trust Christ as our Savior, we also trust His Word about creation -- including Genesis 1. Holy Scripture not only teaches us about creation, but more importantly, it teaches us about the Creator!**

[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **For by Him ALL THINGS were created:** things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **ALL THINGS were created by Him and for Him.** He is before **ALL THINGS**, and in Him **ALL THINGS** hold together. COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

¹ I doubt few, if any, LCMS pastors were included in this survey. In our circles, I think the number of pastors holding to the Genesis creation account would be well over 90%. It makes you thankful to be part of the LCMS! See survey at <http://biologos.org/blogs/archive/a-survey-of-clergy-and-their-views-on-origins>

The New Testament teaches us that all three Persons of the Holy Trinity created the world; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with the emphasis on Jesus, our Savior. **ALL THINGS** *were created by Him and for Him*.

In this passage, two things stand out:

1. Note the emphasis on Christ creating and sustaining **ALL THINGS**. Every aspect of the world was created by the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Creeds we say “heaven and earth, visible and invisible” to capture **ALL THINGS**.

2. This passage reveals and reinforces the truth that **Jesus is True God**, the Creator Himself. ***Your Creator is also your Savior who came into the world to suffer and die for you and your salvation!***

Jesus demonstrates that He is the **LORD OF CREATION** every time He performed a miracle. **Every miracle shows that Jesus is the Creator Who has power over creation:** today we heard the story of how our Creator-Savior commanded a fierce storm to cease, and it became completely calm. Jesus controls nature! All creation is under His control. **Every miracle shows that Jesus is the Creator Who has power over creation.**

That's good news for us today. The God we worship is **OMNIPOTENT**; Jesus is your Creator-Savior Who has complete power and full authority over all things to make them work for good in your life. He can control “*the wind and the waves*” of your life. In fact, that is what Jesus promises to you: that He will use His divine power for your **ULTIMATE** good; to help you and not to harm you.

If you are in difficult circumstances right now; if you are facing pain, or stress, or hardship, then look to your Creator-Savior: The Lord Jesus uses His mighty power for good in your life! Your Creator-Savior knows you and cares about you!

Jesus the Creator shows His **mighty power** most clearly when He reconciles you to the Father. **The clearest place to see God's care for you is in salvation. His work of salvation is the most powerful work that He does.**

In Genesis, after God created the Heavens and the Earth in six days, Adam and Eve soon **disobeyed** God in the Garden of Eden. Adam's sin is passed on to every single person. We are conceived and born in sin, we stand guilty before

God, and we are totally and thoroughly corrupt. The Bible says that “*there is no one who does good, not even one.*” Rom 3:12 This is the doctrine of **Original Sin**. Since we are trapped in original sin, the Creator comes into the world to save us. He Himself does the work to rescue you from sin, guilt and death. Jesus the Creator **enters** creation: *He is conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.* Jesus the Creator has no original sin, He is *holy and righteous*. **Adam brought death in the world; Christ brings life for all men; Adam brings guilt; Christ brings peace.**

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and *through Him to reconcile to Himself ALL THINGS, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.* COLOSSIANS 1:19

Your Creator is your Savior! You have been reconciled with God the Father through Christ the Son! **Christ’s death on the cross, His blood shed like a sacrifice for your sin, reconciles you to God!** You have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ!

- † **The death of Jesus pays the penalty for your sins;**
- † **His resurrection from the dead on the third day declares you forgiven in God’s eyes.**
- † **Adam brought death in the world; Christ brings life for all men; Adam brings guilt; Christ brings peace.**

In Christ, you are a “**new creation**”; Christ the Creator has created New Life within you! In faith, you hear and obey God’s Holy Word and Commandments. You live holy and righteous lives; you worship God, hallow His name and seek His Kingdom.

Christ your Creator and Savior also works two special **creation** miracles in our midst —

1. First He washes us with **water in Holy Baptism**, and gives us eternal life. The powerful Word of God is at work in simple water to work the miracle of New Life. In this miracle with water, you are reconciled with God and brought into His family.
2. Second, Christ our Creator and Savior takes **bread and wine** and works a miracle where you receive His **Body and Blood** for the forgiveness of your sins. Holy Communion is a miracle meal, where Jesus feeds you

heavenly food to forgive your sins, strengthen your faith, and assure you of life eternal!

Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are two miracles where the Creator takes some common things in creation --- water, bread, wine – and works a powerful miracle to save you!

Finally, one other thing.

Christ the Creator has reconciled you to God the Father through His death and resurrection. He uses His mighty power for good in your life. He washes you clean with water in Baptism; He feeds you bread and wine in Communion. *Christ then sends you out with words of peace and reconciliation. As far as it depends on us, we live at peace with all people.* That means . . .

- Do you have a broken relationship that needs to be fixed?
- Are you holding a grudge?
- Are you angry with someone and refuse to talk to them?
- Are you withholding forgiveness?

Broken relationships come from sin; either something you said or did; or something someone else said or did. **It doesn't matter who or what started it -- as a new creation in Christ, you are a peacemaker who takes the initiative to fix the broken relationship.** In Christ, you learn about reconciliation. Just as God took the initiative to save you and reconcile you to Himself; so too you can take the initiative and honestly try to repair broken relationships in your life. **The burden falls on you** --- because you know Christ and His reconciliation!

You can let go of the grudge. You can forgive. You can stop choosing to be angry. You can pick up the phone. You can knock on the door. **Let your reconciliation with the Father through Jesus Christ empower you to reconcile broken relationships in your life.** *Christ sends you out with words of peace and reconciliation. As far as it depends on you, live at peace with all people.*

Today, we thank and praise the Lord Jesus Christ as our Creator and Savior. Being reconciled to God the Father through Christ's death and resurrection, we now live **lives of peace trusting and believing God's holy Word.** Amen!