

259 Jesus is the Creative Creator

Let's pray:

Father, thank You for Scott, and thank You for the fifty years You gave him, and thank You for his family and all the different ways that You've used him and are working in his heart. I love his tender heart and his teachable spirit, and I pray that You'll bless him abundantly on this special birthday. And I pray that You'll draw near to us now during this podcast, and that we'll speak the words now that You've given us, and I pray that You will, by Your Spirit, take all of what we say and do in the next twenty minutes or so and encourage us by it and give us each something for our journey. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Oftentimes I start my personal devotions with hymns. In fact, lately I have the Hymns for Family Worship on my computer as a PDF. I like to start my mornings by finding a hymn and reading through the history and then singing it to myself. Then I begin reading my Bible and work through my prayer list. It is a good rhythm. I have wanted to do this in the past, but I'm becoming much more consistent.

Today, I'm going to read the words, and maybe sing one verse if you've never heard "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"?

Most hymns that I sing, have a memory that accompany them. When I think of this hymn, I think of being in seminary in a big, open room, where we had chapel services. The acoustics were magnificent. It was just so strengthening and invigorating to hear these male voices singing this song. Verse 1: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O, my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation. All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near. Praise Him in glad adoration.

Verse 2: Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under His wings, yea, He so gently sustaineth. Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?" And the end of the hymn says: "Praise to the Lord, let all that is in me adore Him! All that has life and breath come now with praises before Him. Let the amen sound from His people again. Gladly for aye we adore Him."

This is the intro for what we're going to talk today, Jesus our creative Creator. I'm going to read a couple Scriptures first to get us started, and then we'll do a little bit of commentary. Colossians 1:15-17: "He," speaking of Jesus, "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through Him and for him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Powerful passage.

Hebrews 1:2–3: “In these last days He has spoken to us by His son, Whom He appointed the heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.”

Sometimes when I am giving thanks, I am thankful that the world is being held together by Jesus. Even to those people that don’t know Him and don’t see Him, He is the one that holds all things together. He upholds the universe by the Word of His power.

As I’ve been meditating on Jesus the Creator, I’ve noticed an interesting thing. God never changes. He’s always the same. We’ve talked about this in one of our previous episodes. When He makes a promise, He keeps it. When He makes a covenant, He honors it, and His character never changes. His attributes never change. Malachi 3:6 says, “I the LORD do not change.”

He introduces Himself to Moses, “I AM.” He’s not going to be. He’s not evolving. He is. Psalm 102 says, “Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but You are the same, and Your years have no end.” What a picture.

God is the creator, and He doesn’t change, and yet in His creation, which was created in His image, everything is unique. It’s different. It’s special. Think of humans. What are we, seven billion now on the planet? Every one of us is unique and different. Every flower that He created is unique and special. Every snowflake is a one-of-a-kind. Every time I go outside and look at the cloud formations, look at trees, look at the sky. I see uniqueness.

This past weekend, my wife and John and I had a wonderful time hiking a five-mile trail around a lake in the Pocono Mountains. Every time we hike that trail it’s different. We try to hike around it every fall and this adventure has morphed into a family tradition. Every year is new and special. I like to think that God is not just a one-time Creator when He created the world, but He’s an ongoing Creator, and He’s a creative Creator, even though He Himself does not change.

For example, when He creates us, He said, “Let Us make man in Our own image.” I like that: “Let Us.” “After Our likeness,” plural, because Job 33:4 says, “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” We’ve already read that Jesus is the Creator. This is a picture of the Trinity, for creation is a work of the group. God is one, and yet God is three, and together they made us in their image after their likeness. Every time we have a person born, they’re reflecting some new image or some new glimpse of God’s likeness, because we’re each reflections of the Triune God. We’re made in His image, we’re made after His likeness,

and we each reveal some aspect of God's likeness that wouldn't be there if we hadn't been created.

Have you ever performed a wedding ceremony? I've done several, and one of the neat things is that at the very end, after you've gone through the vows and exchanged rings, the minister has the joyous couple turn and face the audience, and you say, "I now have the privilege of introducing to the world for the very first time Scott and Jen Moore." Because you're a new couple and you have just somehow mysteriously and wonderfully been made into a one flesh. Marriage is one of the greatest miracles in Scripture, where He takes two people, very different, very unique, and He makes something new. And the Moores now have entered the world as a new creation.

When we're born again we become new creatures. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." And Ephesians 4, Paul says, "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Because of the fall, we're not born looking like Jesus as much as we're going to look like Jesus after we believe in Him, receive Him as our Savior, and start becoming conformed to His image.

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Isaiah. "Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, Who formed you from the womb: 'I am the LORD, Who made all things, Who alone stretched out the heavens, Who spread out the earth by Myself.'" Hebrews 11:3 says "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God, so that what was seen was not made out of things that are visible."

We've moved from Genesis to Isaiah to Hebrews trying to cover all the bases here, and then in Revelation we read this: "Then I saw the new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. 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.' And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'"

Isn't that a powerful passage? God is in the business of creating and sustaining and holding things together. He's also in the business of recreating and giving us new life as new creatures. He's also going to wipe away death. He's going to wipe away pain, mourning, crying – these former things are going to pass away forever because

He is going to make all things new. This is His nature. He is the Creator, and He is the author of life and the giver of life, and He continues to give life.

Now, we're going to close up with six wonderful passages about Jesus as the author of life. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1:1-3)

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live.'" (John 11:25)

"The thief comes only to steal kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (Jon 10:10)

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

"This is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent." (John 17:3)

"These are written" – "these" meaning the words of the gospel of John – "these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31)

This is what separates heaven and, you might say, not heaven, or God and the devil. The devil is focused on destroying things and killing things and bringing pain and sorrow. Whereas God is a life-giver all the way through, from the beginning when He breathed life into the dust and He formed man, when He created marriage, then He created the nation of Israel, followed by the creation of the church. He's been doing creative things since the inception of the world, and He continues to give us life every day.

This has been such a wonderful meditation for me. I'm putting together these studies for the book about to be released called **Come into His Presence**. I'm choosing attributes of God. Recently I've been meditating on God being the creative Creator, Jesus the Author of life, and the Giver of life.

What I didn't see until I started meditating on this truth is how it's so fascinating that He never changes, His Word never changes, His covenants never change, His promises never change, and yet everything that He creates is unique and different and special and it's a one-of-a-kind, which points to Jesus and His creativity.

So what do you think of that, brother? I poured out a bunch of thoughts on you.

Scott: I'm not sure if you hit Ephesians, I might have missed it if you hit Ephesians 2:10, that we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God created in advance for us to do. Some translations translate that we are His masterpiece, His creation.

Steve: It's not that God created us and then just is sitting back and enjoying His creation and watching His creation, but His creation is ongoing, and His nature is to make all things new and to breathe life and to give hope, and this is our God. He doesn't create death and pain and suffering. He's going to wipe that stuff out. And everything He touches is a new manifestation of His character, another new glimpse into what He looks like.

One thing I have observed when I take the time to meditate on some aspect of God's character for more than ten seconds, it gives God a chance to reveal Himself to me,. Sometimes I ask Him questions and I pray, and then I search the Scriptures, and together this process opens up truth like a flower, and I receive a new insight into God's nature and character. It's wonderful. He's wonderful.

Let's pray. Father, thank You for being so creative. Thank You, Jesus, for making the world and holding it together and sustaining it by Your power. Thank You, Spirit of God, for breathing life into us and into Jesus when He was dead, and it was the Spirit of God that raised Him and gave Him new life. Thank You for all the new life that we experience when we come to Christ, and enable us to be not only recipients of Your life-giving power, but help us also to bring life and encouragement to all that we come in contact with as we are connected with You, the Author and Sustainer and Creator of all things new. Help us to be redemptive forces in our culture and in our homes. In Jesus' name, Amen.