

Theme: Christ's redemptive work affects not only the human spirit, but all of our human nature, and all of creation as well.

I. Intro – Supremacy of Christ

- A. A great text!
- B. Central point – supremacy of Christ (v15,18)
 - 1. Supreme in His Person (v15)
 - 2. Supreme in His creative work (v16)
 - 3. Supreme in His Preserving work (v17)
 - 4. Supreme in His redemptive work (v20)
- C. How far does Christ's redemptive work go?
- D. Is redemption cosmic in its scope?

II. The Cosmic Scope of Redemption

- A. Explicit Scriptures on cosmic scope of redemption
 - 1. Col 1:15-20 (v 19-20; blood, lexical; structural)
 - 2. Acts 3:19-21 - restore everything (55:12-13; Is 35)
 - 3. Romans 8:19-23 (19-21; 22-23)
 - 4. James 1:18 – firstfruits of all he created
 - 5. Mat 19:28 – renewal of all things (Titus 3:5)
 - 6. Eph 1:9-10 – all things under Christ as head

- B. Christ our Redeemer is heir of all things
 - 1. Col 1:15, 18 - firstborn – heir – all things
 - 2. Heb 1:2 – heir of all things; creation again!
 - 3. John 16:15 – all that belongs to Father
- C. Christ our Redeemer rules over all things
 - 1. Col 1:16 – thrones, powers, by him, for him
 - 2. Heb 2:5-9 – all things under Jesus in world to come

III. Implications of the Cosmic Scope

- A. Shows the clear link between CFRC
 - 1. Unmistakable in text – language, structure
 - 2. Spoken of in many NT texts
 - 3. Necessary implication of flow of biblical story
 - 4. Wolters quote on same scope for CFR
- B. Shows the clear link between humanity & creation
 - 1. Regeneration is type & firstfruit of creation rebirth (Jm 1; Mt 19)
 - 2. Resurrection will usher in new world (Rom 8)
- C. Our call is also cosmic in scope
 - 1. God has not given up on creation; nor should we

2. Wolters quote on scope and implications

3. Redemption has implications for all life

D. God is victorious – His will is done!

1. God's original plan is on track

2. God is the victor – not Satan or sin

3. Williams quote

E. Communion: A Means of Grace

The Cosmic Scope of Christ's Redemptive Work

Colossians 1:15-20

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Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you-- even Jesus. 21 He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. Acts 3:19-21

12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed. Isaiah 55:12-13

19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:19-23

18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. James 1:18

28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Mat 19:28

9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. Ephesians 1:9-10

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. Hebrews 1:2

15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. John 16:15

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor 8 and put everything under his feet." **next screen**

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Hebrews 2:5-9

"The horizon of creation is at the same time the horizon of sin and of salvation. To conceive of either the fall or Christ's deliverance as encompassing less than the whole of creation is to compromise the biblical teaching of the radical nature of the fall and the cosmic scope of redemption." – Wolters, 71.

"He refuses to abandon the work of His hands – in fact He sacrifices His own Son to save His original project. Humankind, which has botched its original mandate and the whole creation along with it, is given another chance in Christ; we are reinstated as God's managers on earth. The original good creation is to be restored.

The practical implications of that intention are legion. Marriage should not be avoided by Christians, but sanctified. Emotions should not be repressed, but purified. Sexuality is not simply to be shunned, but redeemed. Politics should not be declared off-limits, but reformed. Art ought not to be pronounced worldly, but claimed for Christ. Business must no longer be relegated to the secular world, but must be made to conform again to God-honoring standards." – Wolters, 58.

"To suggest that the sin of man so corrupted his creation that God cannot fix it but can only junk it in favor of some other world is to say that ultimately the kingdom of evil is more powerful than the kingdom of God. It makes sin more powerful than redemption, and Satan the victor over God. Reducing the gospel to a strictly spiritual dimension of human existence concedes everything outside of that dimension to the enemy."

Michael D. Williams, *Far as the Curse is Found: The Covenant Story of Redemption*, 285