

No. 33

Skeleton on the New Creation

2 Cor V 17

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If man had never existed, or existing had never fallen, or fallen had never been redeemed, the son of god would never have assumed the name of ~~Christ~~ Jesus, or Christ or mediator; but entering upon the glorious work of XXXX human redemption, he performs new offices, assumed an new name, and sustains a new character, in the exercise of which he is the savior of mankind, who merited heaven for us by the price of his own blood. Although the plan of salvation reveals in the gospel, was not fully accomplished until the death and resurrection of our Lord, it was nevertheless available to the human family, from the period of god's covenant ^engagement with Adam, when he promised that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpents head_ this promise referred to the advent of Christ, and the atonement which he would make for the sins-of the world; and all who looked forward to the Great Deliverer in the full assurance of faith were justified and accepted in the sight of God. Hence we learn that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen for by it the elders obtained a good report? Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice to God than Cain_ Enoch was transported that he should no see death_ Noah obtained the righteousness which is by faith, and Abraham became the father of the faithful and the heir of the world. After the Saviour had prepared the world for his reception by the compact made with the first man_ the destruction of the antidilluvians_ the call of Abraham_ the giving of the law, the types and shadows of the Jewish church, and the fulfilment of many prophesies concerning himself _When he had thus prepared the human family, and especially the jewish nation, he made his appearance among men about the year of the world 4,000. And about that period we learn from sacred history and Pagan writers, a general expectation prevailed triumphant the east that some extraordinary personage ~~was about to~~ would xxx make his appearance in the ~~world~~ land of Judia. Hence we ^are told XXX when Christ was born in Bethlehem" There came wise men "from the east saying where is he that is born King of the Jews; for we have seen his star in the east, and we come to worship him."

After his incarnation he fulfilled the requirements of both ^of the moral and ceremonial law that he might close up the old testament dispensations, establish a new system of worship, and exhibit a pattern of obedience to all succeeding generations_ Accordingly he submitted to the rites and ceremonies of the jewish religion _He was carried into the temple and consecrated to God at eight days ^after xxxx his birth, and ordained as Jewish Priest at the age of thirty year(S)

After he returned upon his public ministry he wrought many stupendous miracles in conformation of his divine authority, and when he had finished & his memorable sermon on the Mount the people were astonished at his doctrine because he taught them as one having authority from god_ Which he was then enjoyed in works of mercy, going about continually doing good, he was betrayed by one of his own disciples, arrested by a band of soldiers, treated with derision and contempt, wrongfully accused & unjustly condemned to death; but he submitted to the unrighteous decision without a single murmur that he might accomplish the great work for which he came into the world, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross that whosoever should believe in him might not perish but have everlasting life

Behold him in Bethlehem, born of a woman born ~~of~~ in a stable and laid in a manger_ See him during his private life from childhood to the period of his public ministry_ a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief_go with him to the garden of Gesthemene and hear him pray while his face is covered with great drops of blood and then behold him upon the cross bleeding, (groaning?), dying.

When Christ exclaimed it is finished sayXXX Blain he changed the tate of the universe. ~~As that moses of the law ceased ad the gospel commenced.~~ This was the point of time which separated the old and the new world from each other. On one side of this point of separation, you behold, the law, with its priests, its sacrifices, & its rites. Retiring from sight. Upon the other side you behold the gospel with its simple and venerable institutions coming forward into view. The Royal high Priest delivered up his(Unson) & (thummina), this breast plate, his robes, and his incense: and Christ stood forth as the Great High Priest of all succeeding generations. ~~By that on sacrifice he abolished their offices forever.~~ Altars upon which the fire had blazed for ages, were now to smoke no more. This was the xxx^ point of time when our Lord created that spiritual kingdom which shall never end.

After his crucifixion he rose X from the dead on the morning of the third day_ ~~He~~ remained with his disciples forty days_ and there led them out to Bethany pronounced his blessing upon them, and ~~then~~ ascended up to heaven where he is exalted a Prince and a Saviour to give repentance and remissions of sins. For if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus & shall believe in thy heart that do raised him from the dead ~~rose again~~ Verily ^thou shall be saved, XXX And if anyman be in Christ ^Jesus he is a new creature &c.

II. We shall endeavor to show in the next place, why the renovation of our nature may be called a new creation. This will appear from the resemblance which it bears to the firs creation, when the Almighty brouth the world into existence with all its appendages, & reduced the whole to perfect order.

1. For instance in the beginning the earth was without form and void_ out of order and in confusion, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.
This is a striking emblem of the real ^condition ~~state~~ of the unregenerate_ Moral darkness has covered the earth & gross darkness the people. We need not refer you to heathen land in conformation of this truth., but look at the people of our own highly favored country, & see the ignorance and error which prevail among them in regard to the being and perfections of God, the apostasy of man the redemption of the world, the plan of salvation, this immortality of the

soul, and the nature of future punishments and rewards. One error succeeds another as one wave impels another until the mind is wrapt in darkness, and capable of holding the most palpable falsehood

2. The Agent which gave being and order to the natural world was the spirit of God; and this is the great Agent in that new creation mentioned in our text. The Saviour said to Nicodemus, that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee ye must be born again. No wind bloweth where it listeth (John III 7-9)
3. The first thing which God created in the natural world was light-“and God said let there be light and there was light” And this analogy will hold good in the spiritual world. The individual who has put on the new man is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. Where as he was blind, he now can see-he has been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the marvelous light and liberty of the children of God. __ __
4. The same power that created still supports the world. Christ who is the brightness of his Fathers glory, and the express image of his person upholdeth all things by the word of his power. And he who has commenced a good work in the xxx heart will carry it on to the day of redemption. Hence says the Apostle Peter “blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ &c”
5. In the last place on this part of the subject we would observe that God surveyed the first creation with complacency and delight; and there is nothing more pleasing to God, than to witness the progress of his people in the divine life. Hence we are exhorted , rejoice evermore-pray without ceasing-in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you __ __ __

III In this their place we should consider in what respects the individual is a new creature who has become a disciple of Christ ~~been regenerated through the atonement of Christ~~

1. He is renewed in his state and conditions-#He has passed from death into life”. (Eph. II.12.18. Rom VII.1) Heb XII. 18-24_ __ __
2. He is renewed in his frame and moral constitutional All the faculties and affections of the soul are ~~renewed~~renovated by the grace of God_
3. Again; -All who are in Christ are renewed in their practice and conversation. Were it not for this test of Christian experience we might deceive ourselves, we might deceive the world, we might deceive the church. But the evidence of a new creation are laid down so plainly in the word of God, that all who will measure themselves by this standard may ascertain whether they have been born of the spirit (Eph. II.10 1 Peter IV.4)

IV. We shall conclude the subject by a few reflections on the necessity of being created anew in the church

1. It is the express will of God-(John III. 5 Heb XII.14 Gal.V.6 VI.16)
2. This new creation constitutes our qualification for the kingdom of heaven (I John III.2)
3. None but those who are renewed in Christ are in favor with God__

