

10 New Creation

What God had begun in the very beginning finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who will return to finally put all to right, when all things are remade, and God's presence fills the world.

Readings for the Week

Romans 3-5

2 Corinthians 5

Revelation 4-5, 21

What are common views of the afterlife and heaven? These can be Christian or otherwise.

Where do you think people get their views about heaven?

In God's plan he has secured for the church a great future. No matter what the church faces today we can trust that Christ is preparing for us a new creation.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

What does Paul know of afflictions and suffering? When he refers to "light momentary affliction" what do you think he means?

If Paul, who had gone through very serious trials, is able to call his experiences light and momentary in comparison to the "eternal weight of glory" that we look forward to, what does that say about our future?

How can we allow the good future Christ prepares for us to impact the hard times of the present?

In the next chapter Paul has more to say about what awaits us. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.

What do Christians have in store for them based on this passage?

What is the difference between a tent or a house? How will the new bodies we receive differ from the old?

God has created this world and declared in Genesis that it was good. This creation includes the bodies we have. But due to sin, all creation is scarred. Rather than be rid of this world or our bodies because of our sin, God intends to renew and redeem it. Read Romans 8:18-25.

Is it strange to think of creation "groaning" as it waits for God to complete his work of redemption? Why would it do so?

Our sin hasn't just affected humanity, but our sin has harmed the whole creation. What will God do to fix the mess that we have made? What can we do as we wait?

While we believe that there is rest with Christ for those who die, there is something more to come at the end of time when Jesus returns. Read Revelation 21:1-22:1-5 for John's vision of the new creation.

Describe the scene that John sees. What is new? What is there in the new creation? What is no longer present?

How is God living with his people? Is he far or near? Is there any fear of God?

There are many similarities in this new creation to the first creation we read about in Genesis. The plan of God has led us back to how it began, but now our sin is cast out of his presence and because of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, we can be presented before God as his bride. In our future there are no more tears and not even darkness, for God will be our light. We will gather in worship, seeing him face to face, and we will reign with him forevermore. Until that day, let us wait in eager expectation and live today for Christ and his kingdom.

