

Sunday 26 July 2020

Good morning I greet you in the wonderful name of Jesus.

This morning I want to ask you to pray for our town as each day we seem to be hearing about more and more covid cases presenting themselves.

Once again thank you to all those who are involved in helping those in need with feeding schemes or in any other way.

This past week we had a virtual Synod that lasted a day. Only the Superintendent and one Circuit Steward could attend. All the District matters were dealt with. So hopefully in future we can have 1 day Synods in place of 4days.

New Creation

Psalm 67

Colossians 3:1-17

Love is often a word that is spoken and not demonstrated. We hardly hear of news that relates to love, but news that relates to hate. We hear of violence, crime, wars etc. We hear of retaliation and the inflicting of pain. We hear of wars of liberation justified by freeing people from evil rulers and torture chambers. We hear and actually see pictures of human beings head's being cutting off . While those doing it are having no feelings about doing what they have done. What makes people behave in such a way? The reason is simply that people find themselves in darkness because they don't know Christ as the light of the world. All the atrocities would not be happening if the world loved Jesus and kept His commandments. These atrocities are really revealing to us the state of the world we live in, a state described in His word as darkness. It is in such a situation that the world needs the light of God. In this time of darkness when we need Him the most, God is right here, waiting for us to turn to Him. The Bible tells us that “ anyone who comes to Christ is anew creation – behold, the old things have passed away and all things are made new.”

The reference to a new creation means that there had been another Creation before and that something had gone wrong and so needed a new one. The old creation, began when the light of God dispelled the darkness and was corrupted by sin. Sin plunged God's perfect Creation into darkness. God is holy and sin always separates us from Him. Instead of being “filled with the fullness of God,”sin makes us inwardly empty, lonely and in darkness. God so loved us that He would not leave us in such a condition and the result was a new Creation. In John 3: 16 we read “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in shall not perish but have eternal life.” Creation began when God said “Let there be light.” This light was not the sun and moon kind of light, but a divine light that was present on the earth 3 days before God made the sun, moon and stars. The new creation began when God brought the light into the world in the form of His Son Jesus Christ. He begins to

work in our lives by filling us with a divine light. It is the word of God that brings the light. "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." If you are saved there was a time in your life when you were in darkness but the Holy Spirit led you to Christ, who is the Word. When we have lived long enough in darkness and are ready for God to come in and recreate us and give us new life, He does so by first preparing the hearts. He does this by pointing out the things in our life that will destroy our new lives and that is why confession and repentance are so important. As the light of God begins to shine in our lives, it reveals our sin, the sin that Christ died for, the sin that was forgiven on the cross of Calvary. Through confession and repentance we become new Creations.

A businessman once told the story of a warehouse property he was selling. The building had been empty for years and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and strewn trash around the inside. As he showed a prospective buyer, he said that he would replace the windows, bring in a crew to fix the damage and would clean the inside. "Forget about the repairs," the buyer said "When I buy the place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; I want the site." Compared with the renovation God has in mind, our efforts to improve our own lives are as trivial as sweeping a building that is going to be broken down. All God wants is the site and the permission to build. The new building will need to have new windows,- in other words the new life that Christ wishes to work in us. It will be marked by right living and for us to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. The transformation is a response to His new construction not a replacement for it. All the construction costs have been paid in full - at the cross. When we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, sin is dealt with for once and for all. It is dealt with by what God had already done on the cross in Jesus. Christ becomes our new life, living and empowering us. Are you a new creation or are you still living in darkness? What kind of fruit are you bearing. It's time to be this new creation that Jesus paid so dearly for with His Life.

God formed man out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into his nostrils -the breath of life - and man became a living being. He was created in God's image and likeness and he was given dominion over all creation. This was only possible while he remained in the image and likeness of God. When man lost the image of God when sinning in the Garden of Eden, God decided how He would restore man. This is the reason why God had to become man, live a sinless life and be offered up as a sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins. On the cross Christ became sin for our sinfulness, that we might be made righteous with His righteousness. We are to put off the old man and put on the things of the new man. The new nature should bear the right type of fruit. An orange tree does not bear pears and neither does a pear tree bear oranges. Both trees planted side by side and given the same nourishment will each bear its own fruit. Those who have the new nature of Christ are to bear the fruit of the Spirit. This is achieved by reading the word of God and applying its truths to our lives. Warren Wiersbe says "When the child of God looks into the Word of God and sees the Son of God, he is changed by the Spirit of God into the image of God for

the Glory of God.” As children of God we are to experience a change in our lives as we become more like Christ. Other people should increasingly see Christ in our lives as we grow in knowing Him. The better we know Christ the more we will be like him.

When God created Adam and Eve he created them to have fellowship with Him. When He gives us new life it is again to have intimate fellowship with Him. If you want to know real love, real joy and real peace, it can only be found in Jesus Christ. That is the life that God gives us when we allow Him to “create in us a new life.” He doesn't just give us a new life, He gives us a new purpose. He wants our lives to bear fruit. One of the saddest thing is to find a person who is going through life without bearing the fruit of the Spirit. In the next life all believers will function in a different way. They will be set free of the limitations of their physical bodies. The moment we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour our eternal life begins. According to Paul in Ephesians, the Holy Spirit is God's deposit in us. It is the down payment of the life in the next age and is also the guarantee of Christ's return. We realise that salvation is immediate but sanctification is a process that lasts a life time. When we have been saved we must fill our days fulfilling His divine purpose. God wants to have an intimate relationship with each one of us. The reason Jesus died on the cross was that we would receive eternal life through Him and to be adopted into God's family. Jesus said; “I am the vine , you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit: apart from me you can do nothing”. Isn't that what is wrong with the world today. Our lives are empty and there is a lot of darkness all around us. In Jesus we have a meaning and purpose. Do you want to have real peace, real joy and real love, then you have to come to Jesus. Only The God who created the world can create real life.

There are three different types of people in the world. 1. The natural man, 2. The carnal man and 3. The spiritual man. 1. The natural man is the person who has never known God and therefore does not love God. He finds pleasure in all his earthly possessions, his affluence, and appears to be secure and happy. 2. The carnal man is the person who attempts to please God by his good works and right actions. 3. The spiritual man, the new Creation, is the person who realises he is under grace and is filled with love for God and others. Just as God had breathed His Spirit into Adam to give him life, so He has breathed new life into us sinners to make us new Creations – the breath of the resurrected life that triumphed over the forces of evil and Satan.

God loves us so much that He has taken away the darkness and has filled us with light. He wants to take away the emptiness and fill it with real life. He wants to take away the void and fill it with purpose, if we will allow Him to. God wants us all to become a new Creation. To do that we must admit that we are lost and need God. We must admit that we have messed up our lives without Him and have fallen short of His Glory. We must believe that God so loved us that He sent His only son Jesus Christ to die for us and so have newness of life. We must confess that He is our Lord and Saviour . Let us today become new Creations. Amen