

New City Catechism

Question 26: What else does Christ's death redeem?

Answer: Every part of fallen creation.

Colossians 1:19-20

We have been discussing Christ's role as OUR Redeemer the past couple of weeks. In fact, last week we discussed how Christ's death cancels our sins. And by his blood we are redeemed! This is very good news! But today's Q&A deals with even more good news...

Read today's Question first. Who has some guesses as to what the answer is?

Now commit the answer to memory.

When God created the earth and all that is in it, what did he say about it when it was all said and done? (*It was good!* – Gen. 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

But then what happened? (Genesis 3:13-19). What kind of consequences of the fall do we see daily in the world around us? Do we see these consequences in anything besides people?

So if Christ's death redeems every part of fallen creation, why do we see so much sin, heartache, disease and disaster in this world?

Read the following story from Kelly Lovell

I have a friend whose grandmother was diagnosed with cancer. She knew that she didn't have much time left on this earth but she knew the Lord and couldn't wait to be with Him. Before she got really sick, she decided to go through her house and write family member's names on things that she wanted them to have after she died. She wrote names on vases, paintings, figurines, mirrors, personal items, furniture, etc. And what she couldn't write on, she wrote down on a list. My friend was excited to learn that her grandmother had put her name on a pearl necklace! Because her grandmother wore the pearls a lot, the necklace would always carry a sweet memory of her

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grandmother. She was thrilled to know that they belonged to her. The necklace was hers, but not yet. She knew they were hers. They were marked with her name, but they weren't hers YET.

Christ's redemption works in a similar way. There are aspects of His redemption that are true ALREADY, true NOW. But there are also aspects of His redemption that are most assuredly promised but haven't happened YET. We could say His redemption is ALREADY, but NOT YET.

Read Romans 8:18-25

All of these words are true ALREADY, but some aspects we have NOT YET experienced. What in this passage belongs to the ALREADY and what to the NOT YET?

How is this accomplished? (through Christ's shed blood)

Read Colossians 1:19,20

What does Christ redeem? How does he redeem these things? (by His blood, through His death)

The work of redemption through the cross has already happened, the work of His redemption rings true in the hearts of believers, but the fulfillment of redemption in all of creation has yet to be fulfilled upon Christ's second coming)

Read 2 Peter 3:13

As believers, we have a hope that we can only begin to understand. All of that hope is fully accomplished in the cross. We have a present hope of Christ's redemption of our own hearts and lives. But we also have a future hope of a new heaven and a new earth in which ALL of creation will be redeemed! Spend some time thanking Him for this Already, but NOT YET reality!

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Commentary, Video, and Prayer as you see fit.

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