

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

John 1:29

My wife and I often remind our young children to consider the source of the gifts they receive. Without (and sometimes even with) this reminder, they often take for granted what they have been given. We have tried to take the same approach in teaching them to appreciate the amazing gift God has given us in His creation. All around us are reminders of life and beauty. So when they get excited about green grass returning or the sound of the birds chirping, we ask them, "And who made this?" to which they quickly reply with a smile, "God made it!" Something new that they are learning is to not only associate creation with God the Father, but to recognize that the Bible speaks about Jesus, the second member of the Trinity, as present and active in creation as well (John 1:3).

I hope that each of us has a clear appreciation for the magnificence and graciousness of Christ's gift to us in creation, especially as we see so many new signs of physical life each spring. But this is not the only sense in which the Bible talks about creation. It also speaks of a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:24, etc).

In Colossians 1:15-20, in what is often called the Christ Hymn, Paul is comparing Christ's lordship and authority over the first creation to Christ's lordship and authority over the second creation. Although man, the pinnacle of the first creation, has fallen into sin, Jesus is restoring man, and all of His creation, to its original perfected state. The risen Christ we celebrate at Easter is the first fruits of that new creation (I Corinthians 15:20). Jesus not only happens to be the "firstborn from the dead," but also, it is because of His life, death, and resurrection that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.

On this Easter morning, remember that just as we have received a good gift in creation, by faith our sins are forgiven, and we are raised as a new creation in Christ.

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AFLC Promotion for April is the Bible College