



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# Mission of God: The Cross – Bigger Than You Think

Bible Reading: Romans 8:20-22; Colossians 1:15-20

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

[Join our citKids Connect discussion at 11am](#)

## I. “The Scope of Christ’s Redemptive Work—“all things” (Eph. 1:10; Col. 1:20)

### A. Reconciling humans (Eph. 1:5, 7; 2:11-20)

1. To God (Eph. 1:5, 7) – adopted into God’s family
2. To each other (Eph. 2:11-20) – part of God’s new humanity, dealing with divisions
3. Needing reconciliation with the rest of creation

### B. But, it’s bigger—Reconciling “all things” by the blood of his cross (Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:15-20)

- “Salvation is not only about the forgiveness of individual sins, but about restoring all of creation to its intended state... Christ’s redemption involves the restoration of all things in creation.” –Derek Schuurman
- “The scope of reconciliation is as broad as the scope of creation...Salvation is bigger than we thought! God’s love is more encompassing than we thought. The...power of Christ’s cross is greater than we thought.” –Richard Bauckham

### C. Reconciling creation (Rom. 8:20-22)

1. Everything God made was ‘very good’ (Gen. 1:31)
2. Cursed is the ground (Gen. 3:17b-18a)
3. Creation to be set free—liberated (Rom. 8:20-22)

– “These words...denote not annihilation...but [rather,] the transformation of the present universe.” –F. F. Bruce

## II. Creation–Annihilated or Renewed? (2 Pet. 3:10-11; Rev. 20:11; 21:1, 5; Rom 8:21)

### A. Annihilation–Replacement (2 Pet. 3:10-11; Rev. 20:11; 21:1)

1. Earth—“burned up” or “disclosed/exposed”? (2 Pet. 3:10)
2. Heaven & Earth—“passed away” or “made new”? (Rev. 21:1, 5)

### B. Renewal–Transformation (Rom 8:21; Rev. 21:5)

1. Creation liberated, not annihilated/replaced (Rom. 8:21)
2. God making ‘all things new’ (Rev. 21:5)
  - “God does not make ‘all new things’, but ‘all things new.’ [Rev. 21:5]—Eugene Boring
  - “God who made ‘all things’...will ‘make all things new.’ God’s whole creation is destined for glory.”—R. Bauckham

### C. Christ’s Resurrection—the Prototype (‘first-fruits’) of God’s New Creation (1 Cor. 15:20-22)

1. Continuity between the Resurrected Christ & Jesus of Nazareth
2. The Resurrected Christ—beginning of God’s New Creation (Rev. 3:14b)
3. Christ’s believers—‘new creation’ people destined for God’s new Creation—new Heaven & Earth (2 Cor. 5:17)
4. God’s ‘New Creation Project’ climaxes in the Renewed Cosmos (Rev. 21-22)

### D. Annihilation vs. Renewal–It’s not an either/or scenario, but both

### E. The two views shape our attitude towards creation

1. Diminished view—Dispensational Doctrines—Believers’ Rapture & Earth’s Annihilation
  - The End-time view “popular among...Evangelicals...foresees the future of creation as an inevitable downward spiral ending in cosmic destruction...If...the world [is to be] destroyed, what is the need for [creation] care?” –R. Waddell
2. Uplifted view—God values & will redeem His Good Creation

### F. The two views shape our attitude towards our own development

1. Diminished view
  - “Dispensational postures toward the world...make impossible the long-range plans & commitments.”—Al Truesdale
2. Uplifted view
  - “God who made ‘all things’...will ‘make all things new.’ God’s whole creation is destined for glory.”—R. Bauckham

## III. God’s Whole Creation is Destined for Glory (2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 21:5)

### A. New creation (2 Cor. 5:17) – it starts with humans, but reaches as ‘far as the curse is found’!

### B. God ‘makes all things new’ (Rev. 21:5)

- “God who made ‘all things’...will ‘make all things new.’ God’s whole creation is destined for glory.”—R. Bauckham