



We all live in some story that we tell ourselves & it makes a world of difference

- whether the story you're telling yourself is one that ends with your death
- or whether you believe in the resurrection and that this new life goes on for ever and ever and you live in that story and frame your life in that story

### **Romans 1:1-4**

**1** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God

**2** the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures

**3** regarding his son who as to his earthly life was a descendant from David

**4** and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God with power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord

### **Key Statements**

- The resurrection, according to Romans 1 is key to understanding Jesus as the Son of God.
- What was accomplished on the cross: Jesus was victorious. God's love defeated evil.
- We become the image of God that we worship
  
- Our picture of what was accomplished on the cross, and therefore of God, is often too small.
- For most of the first 1,000 years or so of church history, the answer to the question: "Why did Jesus die?" was "to free us from the devil's oppression" or something along those lines.

### **2 Corinthians 5:19**

*God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself not counting people's trespasses against them*

- God, in Christ, reconciles the world to himself.
- Why is this important to grasp, yet often ignored or overlooked?
- All aspect of God's creation need redeeming?  
Why we often overlook this?  
What are some of the implications of this for how we should live?

## **Romans 8:17**

*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed...*

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit we groan inwardly while we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies*

- Is part of the reason we ignore some of the aspects of God's reconciliation work, is because we don't understand glory?

## **Colossians 1:19-20**

*For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

- Everything that makes God God, is in Jesus, and through him, he is reconciling everything to him, because of the cross.

Creation – this world – is screwed up because of that the Scriptures call “rulers, authorities, principalities, powers” – Satan and other spirit beings.

- The evil one, is the Lord of this world
- *the ruler of the world: John 12:32, 14:31, 16:11*
- *the principal power of the air: Ephesians 2:2*
- *the god of this age: 1 Corinthians 4:4*
- *the evil one who controls the entire world: 1 John 5:19*
- *the thief who comes only to kill, steal and destroy: John 10:10*
- *the one who has the power of death: Hebrews 2:14*

This world right now is being ruled by a thief who comes only to kill, steal and destroy

- If it ever looks like he's doing something else – **don't trust it** – because he's only here to kill, steal & destroy
- He may look like he's going to give you life, he may promise you things, but in the end he'll only kill, steal and destroy
- This world is broken, corrupted

But **Hebrews 2:14-15** tells us

*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

- What did Jesus come to do?  
Jesus came to destroy the one who had the power of death.

## **1 John 3:8**

*The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work*

We are living in the already but not yet