

CatClub: Question 26



1. Recap. Last week we learnt that Jesus' death on the cross means that all our sins can be forgiven. The key, of course, is to trust him; as we do this, we can know that he paid in full the penalty for our sin and that we are regarded as completely righteous in God's sight. It is as if, when God the Father sees us, he sees his Son, Jesus – and so he won't remember our sins anymore. So trust Jesus!

Q26 now asks: What else does Christ's death redeem? Answer: **Christ's death is the beginning of the redemption and renewal of every part of fallen creation as he powerfully directs all things for his own glory and creation's good.**

Explanation: It is important to understand that God's plan isn't just to create a new humanity (Christians by faith in Jesus), but to create a whole new universe one day when he returns – which is called the 'New Heaven and the New Earth'. Think about how human beings have spoiled our world – from litter to pollution and global warming. Then think about how wonderful it will be to live in a perfect world, free from all of this.

2. Investigation

Please look up:

a) (In the last book of the New Testament) Revelation, chapter 21, verse 1. Here John (the disciple, who also wrote John's Gospel and the three letters named after him) is shown a vision of what will happen when Jesus returns. **So we know for sure that God is going to re-make not only our world, but the whole universe.**

b) (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 8, verses 20-22. This is a difficult passage. Here we learn that when Adam and Eve were shut out the Garden of Eden (where everything was perfect for life) because they sinned, things became much harder for them because the world outside Eden was not perfectly suited to human life. **So we see in verse 22 that this spoiled, often dangerous world is 'groaning', i.e. waiting to be made new and perfect, in the same way as Eden was perfect.**

c) Finally (also in the New Testament) Colossians chapter 1, verses 19-20. Here we see that Jesus' purpose was not only to 'reconcile' (=restore harmony between) God and humanity, **but to restore the original harmony of the whole creation (as in Eden) – i.e. this world and the whole universe.**

>>>Next week's question: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

This week's songs:

'New Heavens and a New Earth': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgg5Y5XZEUY>

'When we see your face': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0ac4sT-4-o>

Revelation 21:1

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Romans 8:20-22

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Colossians 1:19-20

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.