

ii. You must no longer live under the rule of darkness!

a) God has taken our world apart and put it back together in Christ...

- 2 Cor. 5:17

- Ephesians 2:1-10

- Col. 1:12, 13

- 2 Cor. 4:8-9

iii. You have the mandate to rescue those under darkness!

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- How can we learn from the Gospel that adversity, suffering and weakness are part of God's plan for redemption?
- In what ways did it look like Jesus was under the power and rule of darkness in His crucifixion? How do we know that the powers of darkness were really never in control?
- In what ways might it look at times like the powers of darkness have authority over you?
- How can we know that no matter how dark it may be, or how much it may feel that darkness is in control, in Christ, you can never cease to be under the loving Rule of the Father?
- In what ways has God in Christ taken your life and remade you into a new person?
- How does Ephesians 2:1-10 speak to the fundamental change in your relationship to God? How should this change effect how we interpret difficult circumstances?

How We Became a New Creation in Christ

The Unraveling and Renovation of Creation

Jerry Cisar—October 4, 2009

Text: Matthew 27:45—28:20

I. Darkness Reigns (27:45-54)

A. In Christ “*all things hold together*”.

B. vs. 45 “*Darkness came over the whole land.*”

i. Luke 22:53

ii. Darkness is not new in Matthew's Gospel...

C. The Curtain of the Temple and Seismic Activity

i. *the curtain of the temple being torn asunder*

➤ Hebrews 10:20

➤ Matthew 26:61

ii. *the earth shakes*

iii. *rocks split apart*

iv. *tombs break open*

When Jesus died, the one in whom "all things hold together," creation was torn asunder. The fabric of creation was rent. The temple curtain torn in two.

➤ Genesis 1:2

II. God Reigns Over All (Matthew 27:55-66)

A. In the Darkest Hour

i. Psalm 22:1

ii. Acts 4:25-28

It only appears that Jesus is under the dominion of darkness, in reality, He can never cease to be under the loving Rule of His Father.

B. In His death, it seems Jesus is gathering a following...

a) Psalm 22:29

III. Light Dawns (Matthew 28:1-20)

A. After the Sabbath

i. At dawn:

ii. **lightening**... the brightness of brightest light.

iii. His clothes were characterized by **bright light**

B. He has gone ahead of you into **Galilee**...

i. Galilee was the place Jesus had promised (26:32)

ii. Where **light was dawning!** (4:15-16 from Isaiah)

iii. There, the disciples will **see Him**.

C. Jesus Reigns! (vs. 16-20)

i. Galilee... from which the light to the nations will dawn.

a) They worshiped Him... but some doubted.

➤ Matt 28:18-19

➤ Psalm 22:27-28

D. What does this mean for you and me?

i. It means you can escape death!