

September 8, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Life: A Deep Dive Into Abundant Living
LIFE - CAMERA - CREATION
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Romans 1:18-25

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised. Amen.

Creation was the bible before the bible existed.

This is creation. All that is going on today, only men are blind to see it...
They cannot pause long enough to go out into the wilderness where God has provided every sparrow enough to eat and to spare, and contemplate for even an hour the wonderful world that they live in.
- *John Muir*

Creation and mankind are intimately tethered together. As mankind goes, creation goes.

- **Vs. 18** *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness...*
 - Mankind is God's supreme creation, called to govern creation and creation responds to mankind.
 - **Genesis 1:26** *And God said, Let us make man **in our image**, after our likeness: and let them **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the Earth.*
 - **Creation is still stained with the original curse.**
 - *"Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*

Life is found in creation and creation is a powerful tool in the spiritual toolbox of a mature Christ-follower.

Job 12:7-10 *"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;⁸ or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you.⁹ Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? ¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.*

Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

Following the example of Christ.

Matt 4:1 *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.*

Luke 5:16 *But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

Nature gave the word glory a meaning for me. I still do not know where else I could have found one.

- C.S. Lewis

Food For The Journey

1. Pastor Adam stated that creation was the bible before the bible existed. Do you agree and why?
2. Creation and mankind are intimately tied together. How have you experienced God in creation?
3. Romans 1:20 says that *visible creation reveals God's invisible qualities*. What could some of those be?
4. Why would the Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness? What could Jesus find there that he could not find in other places?
5. Are you engaging nature as part of your Christ following? If so how?