

The Christian and Nature

Romans 8:19-21

Where did the *cosmos* come from and where is it going? 3 viewpoints:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

I. THE COSMOS WAS CREATED BY GOD

- A. The Word "Creation" Is Used _____ Times and Indicates _____
- B. Understanding This Truth Gives the Believer _____ in Handling His Relationship to the Cosmos
- 1) We do not _____
 - 2) Nor do we _____
 - 3) Rather we understand that we care for God's creation as _____

II. THE COSMOS IS NOT WHAT IT WAS CREATED TO BE

Man did indeed affect the environment in the _____ by his _____ Gen. 3:17-18

Though "unwillingly" the destiny of the cosmos is bound up with the destiny of _____

A. "Futility" = _____

The whole of creation is trying to give birth to something better, but it never _____

Illustration of the futility of nature = _____

B. "Corruption" = _____

Corruption is the LAW of nature, formalized in the _____ of Thermodynamics

Illustration of the corruption of nature = _____

III. THE COSMOS WILL ONE DAY BE RENEWED: "IN HOPE"

A. When God Pronounced the Curse on Creation, He also Gave a _____

The creation was cursed when man was cursed; it will also be _____ when man is finally redeemed!

1) Ultimately it will not be man who saves Nature from the effects of the curse, but _____

2) God must redeem Nature from the effects of Satan's strategy in order to _____ Himself

B. This Renewal Will Take Place in the _____

C. Creation Responds to This Hope by _____

IV. THE COSMOS WILL BE REDEEMED WHEN THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE REVEALED

A. "Revealed" = _____

1) Illustration: _____

2) Illustration: _____

B. The World Does Not Understand _____ or _____ the Children of God Are

CONC: Paul presents these truths about Nature to drive home 2 truths about God's children:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____