

October 23, 2011

"The Holy Spirit's Work in Creation"

Genesis 1:1-2; :26-28; 2:7; Psalm 104:29-30

I. God's Word speaks plainly about the work of the Holy Spirit in creation –

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:2 NKJ)

1. All three members of the Godhead were involved in the work of creation –

A. The work of creation is attributed to God, without reference to individual members of the Godhead –

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1 NKJ)

B. Yet, creation is also attributed individually to the Father –

¹⁰ **Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another By profaning the covenant of the fathers? (Mal 2:10 NKJ)**

C. Creation is also attributed to Jesus Christ (the Word) –

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:3 NKJ)

D. And to the Holy Spirit –

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4 NKJ)

2. When we look at the Scripture and attempt to consider the works of God, they seem to follow the order within the Godhead –

A. The beginning / initiation of things is ascribed to the Father –
For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36 NKJ)

B. The building, sustaining and upholding of things seems ascribed to God the Son, Jesus Christ –

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things

were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Colossians 1:13-17 NKJ)

C. The conclusion of all things, the finishing touches, the making things beautiful, even the giving of life, is attributed to the Holy Spirit –

(1) The adorning of the heavens is attributed to Him –

By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; ... (Job 26:13 NKJ)

(2) His hovering over the face of the waters, implies an ordering, perfecting, life-giving action –

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:2 NKJ)

- *Note the context implies the creation was "without form and void" before the Spirit's action –*

- *The Hebrew word used here for "hovering" "merachepheth", according to Puritan scholar John Owen – "signifies a gentle motion, like that of a dove, to communicate vital heat to its eggs, or to cherish its young." "Without Him, all was a dead sea; a rude unformed chaos; a confused heap covered with darkness: but by the moving (hovering) of the Spirit of God upon it, He communicated a quickening, prolific virtue."*

John Owen

3. God's Spirit deserves credit for the perfection of this world which allows for physical life -

Today, there are a number of scientists who are starting to wonder about the miracle of life on earth, it is not likely there is life on other planets – too much has to be - just so perfect!

In order for physical life to exist anywhere (at least carbon based life) these are required –

A. Water – Genesis 1:2, 6-7, & 9; essential for life, water brings life to soil, plants and circulatory systems, water in oceans regulates the temperature of the earth

B. Light – Genesis 1:3-5 a whole electromagnetic spectrum of which only one trillionth of a trillionth is the visible light that enables us to see (color) and plants to live, most of the rest –

radio / microwave / infrared / ultraviolet / X-ray & Gamma light is blocked by our atmosphere

- C. The firmament – Genesis 1:6-8 Our atmosphere is perfectly mixed to sustain life, protect us from harmful light rays and meteorites.
- D. Dry Land – Genesis 1:9-10 Earth is not just a lump of dirt, tectonic plates (our Continents) move around a molten magnetic core that helps hold everything on – gravity (just the perfect level of gravity)...
- E. The Sun, Moon & Stars – Genesis 1:14-19 - the sun is the right size (exactly) and the earth is the exact distance from it to maintain a revolving orbit around it. The moon, ¼ the size of earth keeps the earth's axis on a steady tilt maintaining seasonably temperate weather, we are in the perfect spot in the galaxy, not only for our safety but for observation --- meaning observation of the stars --- God wanted us to behold His glory –

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.² Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. (Psalm 19:1-2 NKJ)

- 4. God's Holy Spirit is given credit for reviving things which were drowned, dry or dead –

You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.³⁰ You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:29-30 NKJ)

- A. Psalm 104 was speaking primarily about the flood
- B. Yet, the renewing work of the Holy Spirit happens in northern places EACH SPRING –

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30 NKJ)

II. God's Spirit also is involved in human creation –

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Genesis 1:26 NKJ)

1. God's Spirit gives us breath / life –

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7 NKJ)

- A. Physical life / resurrection of our physical bodies, even starting with Christ's –

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11 NKJ)

- B. Spiritual / eternal life –

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63 NKJ)

2. God's Spirit creates and recreates us in God's image –

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, ... (Genesis 1:26 NKJ)

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27 NKJ)

and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24 NKJ)

and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, (Colossians 3:10 NKJ)

3. God's Spirit even endows men with creative abilities –

² "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *manner of* workmanship, ⁴ "to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, ⁵ "in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all *manner of* workmanship. (Exo 31:2-5 NKJ)

- A. These are meant to be used for God's glory – **1 Corinthians 10:31**

- B. These are part of God's plan for every Christian –

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJ)