Worldview Apologetics:
Faith Impacting Culture

Lecture 7:
Redeeming Fallen Creation:
Transcendentals, Resurrection, & Critique

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Overview
Redeeming Fallen Creation:
Transcendentals, Resurrection, & Critique

GTB
How Redemption is Christian
Critique

The Christian Doctrine of Redemption

A key principle of biblical studies: There’s less contest about what a text says in view of the context.

• Acts 10.9-15: Is it lawful to eat only certain kinds of foods made from particular animals? Or is all that God has made indeed “clean”? – The resounding answer from the Lord of all creation is that all creation is of the Lord. – Augustine writes: “[L]et every good and true Christian understand that wherever truth may be found, it belongs to its Master.”
• And all things are for the Lord: Col. 1.16
The Christian Doctrine of Redemption

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• Acts 10: … all creation is of the Lord.
• All things are for the Lord: Colossians 1.
• What are all things?: 1 Timothy 4.1-5
• Genesis 1.31: an ancient new teaching
  \( \Rightarrow \) all was made good; yet, all is fallen;
  but now being restored or redeemed (cf. 2 Co. 5.17-21).
  I.e., living as & laboring for GTB.

A Robust View of the Resurrection

How is participating in God’s cosmic redemption program different from living morally?

(1) Personal identification – the resurrection makes redemption possible & meaningful.
(2) Communal membership – the redeemed community lives the resurrection message.
(3) Verbal proclamation – we tell of the basis of redemption, i.e., the resurrection.

… by participation in the life of Christ, through the Body of Christ, and for gospel of Christ

A summary & a caveat

• When we build universities and hospitals; when we start NGOs and for-profit companies; when we create art and build arguments; when we attend church service and prioritize mid-week small group meetings – in all these acts, we are participating in the redemption of this world.
  
• Remember: intimacy/identity precedes impact.
  
• Theologically: the indicative drives the imperative (Eph. Chs. 1 and 4; 2 Co. 5.17-21).

• tinyurl.com/TwoBlindSistersSee
Critique/criticism/crisis

- Greek “krisis” = crisis; shares etymological root:
  - critique/criticism
  - critical theory
- Judaic notion of prophecy
  - Standing on the margins of critiquing sin
  - Critical distance
- Christian doctrine of Redemption
  - Critique is different from complaint in that true critique – Christian redemption – is a “tearing down” which seeks to edify or “build up” – i.e., to redeem the GTB that has been lost.

Some truth...

*But what is happiness?*

- “Whatever gives you pleasure without inflicting pain on anyone else.”

... happiness is to flourish as a human being – i.e., to be remade into the image of God.

*Three Principles of Christian Redemption*

(1) by **Appreciation** not Absorption (Ro. 12.2).
- Be in but not of the world; and be not afraid of the world (Jn. 17.15-17).
- Learn to speak second-first languages (cf. 1 Co. 9.22b).
- The “Grand Age of Apologetics” – speaking in multi-vocal contexts
Three Principles of Christian Redemption

(2) in Between war and wonderment

• “Go Hard” (Lecrae, ft. Tadashi); AND “Go Home”
  – You only live once, so … labor with all your heart (RSP);… so enjoy life (CJP).
  – IC vs. CI
  – Chaplain Chester: all heart [v. Manny; LOSD]
  – Gen. 2.2; Exo. 31.15-17

• How to know when to do what?
  – “If hell is real, why spend time on YouTube?”
  – A time for everything (cf. Ecc. 3); but timing is important (Ex. Obama on vacation)

Mentors can help.

Three Principles of Christian Redemption

(3) … through Communities (“networks”)

• Redeem in teams (Acts 15.36-41)
  Paul Barnabas Timothy
  Head Heart Hands
  lion dog horse
  motivator listener planner

• In sum:
  • living imago Dei & spreading shalom
  • … or reifying the transcendentals!