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# His Word Is Truth!

*This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.*

This is my first "His Word is Truth" article, and I hope there will be many more in the future. I thought I would begin with a 6 part series entitled: **"Connections: Christ and the Old Testament."** Today's "Connections" article is entitled: *"Creation and the Cross!"*

What does the Book of Genesis have in common with Jesus and John 3:16? God teaches us about His work of Creation in Genesis chapters 1 & 2. Does this section of Scripture reveal the Truth about Creation or is it simply a bunch of disconnected, outdated myths? Some today believe God did NOT create the universe and life. Some say our origin is the result of an uncaused and undirected process known as Macro-Evolution. Simply put, there is no God and we are here by accident!

If Macro-Evolution is true, then Adam and Eve are a myth and so is sin! If there is no God who gives us His Truth, then "right" and "wrong" is merely a matter of opinion. If we are not sinners then we don't need a Savior. In other words, if we deny Creation we also deny the Cross!

Some try to have it both ways by saying: "I believe God used Macro-Evolution to develop life." This is wrong for 2 reasons. First, the point of Macro-Evolution is that it is uncaused and undirected, and so there is no place for God! Second, Macro-Evolution assumes that life is an accident and that death is natural. But Genesis teaches that life exists by the will of God and that death was NOT part of God's Creation. *God did not create us with a process that requires death!*

That leads to a question: "If God created the world perfect, then why do we have evil and death?" The answer is found in Genesis chapter 3! The first humans, Adam and Eve, rejected God's love so they could be in control of their own lives and become "like gods" themselves (see Genesis 3:4-5). Evil entered the world when Adam and Eve rejected God, and this resulted in "death"(see Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:17-19). First they died *spiritually*, that is, they no longer trusted God or loved Him. Eventually they would die *physically* as the result of their spiritual rebellion.

We make the same evil choice that Adam and Eve made (see Romans 3:9-20; II Corinthians 11:1-3). We have inherited Adam's sinful nature (see Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12-14) and so we have both *spiritual* and *physical* death (see Roman 6:23a; Romans 8:7-8; Ephesians 2:1-3). But there's hope for us! Creation points us to the Cross where Jesus accomplished our salvation!

In Genesis 3:15 God promised that a male child born of a woman (see Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-23 and Galatians 4:4-5!) would crush the power of the devil. Jesus did this through His death on the cross! Jesus "crushed" the devil's power to accuse us before God when Jesus took our sin and gave us His own innocence (see II Corinthians 5:21). The same God who created the world uses Jesus to give mercy and life to us sinners. Through faith in Christ we are "New Creations" (see II Corinthians 4:6 & 5:17)!

After Adam and Eve sinned God showed His love for them by making them clothes out of animal skin (see Genesis 3:21). An animal died! Blood was shed! *The first picture of Christ's sacrifice for us!* Through Jesus' shed blood we are forgiven. In Holy Baptism we are "clothed" with the risen Christ (see Galatians 3:26-29). So, the next time you read Genesis chapters 1 & 2, remember that it points us to the CROSS and all that Jesus did for you there!

**Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, September 19th! Pastor Eckstein will continue the "Christ and the Old Testament" series with the topic: *"The Flood of Death and Life!"* For more resources about Christian teaching and issues, go to Concordia Lutheran's web page: www.concordiajt.org If you have questions or comments, email Pastor Eckstein at : jesusisyahweh@csicable.net**