

The Doctrine of Creation in Evangelism

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The question of this paper is the question of the role of the doctrine of creation in evangelism. Put differently, should truths about the origin of the universe and mankind, including mankind's fall, play a significant role in evangelism? My contention is that the doctrine of Creation does matter in our evangelism to the world, as evidenced by one primary reason and three secondary reasons.

First, a foundational issue in evangelism is the establishment of the authority of God over mankind, and the doctrine of Creation does just this. As we proclaim that the universe, including mankind, is the result of God's personal creative act, the world begins to develop a sense of accountability to their Creator. This accountability should manifest itself in the individual's realization that he has obligations to God, because the person is God's, as is the whole world.

However, there is more to the doctrine of Creation than just the fact that God Created. It also implies that mankind is in desperate need for salvation, because he did fail in his responsibility to God as the creature. The doctrine of creation itself teaches us that the earth was created perfectly. It was "very good." (Gen. 1:31) This truth provides the key foundation for the fall of man that followed shortly after that declaration at the mouth of God. Therefore, the doctrine of creation provides the foundational history for the man's fall into sin, which is the very reason why we are lost and need the gospel.

Thirdly, the doctrine of creation also serves as a unifying doctrine to the whole story of Christianity, from beginning to end. (see for example Ham 2002, pp. 95, 105-106) The conversion we seek in the lost has its foundation in Creation, because man was created to serve God and to be in fellowship with Him but he is presently not fulfilling either role, apart from the gospel. Additionally, the Creation does provide the backdrop of the restoration and hope that is coming for the world at Christ's Second Coming. By establishing the way things were, the doctrine of creation will help the lost understand why the hope offered in Christ is really a restoration of what mankind originally had. In fact, it can be extremely enlightening to realize that we hope for a better future because we were not primordial soup, but were perfect created beings who were fulfilling our role as the image of God.

Finally, the uncompromised doctrine of Creation is an effective apologetic for the truthfulness of the Bible. Young-earth creationism and Biblical catastrophism both offer the rational person a much better explanation for the origin of life and the existence of the fossil record than any other humanistic explanation. When the evangelist proclaims the Bible's view of human history, the physical evidence may in fact make much better sense than the convoluted explanations offered by naturalistic macro-evolution and uniformitarianism.

In conclusion, the doctrine of creation is very important for the post-modern evangelist. Primarily, it establishes the authority of God in the life of all mankind. That truth lays the foundation for the knowledge of sin, which leads one to the necessity of repentance and to Christ for salvation. Additionally, the doctrine of creation lays the foundation for the current state of mankind, helps to unify the whole Bible's perspective, and provides a better explanation of the origin of man and the fossil record. The doctrine of creation is an important topic to discuss in our evangelistic efforts.

Ham, Ken. 2002. Why won't they listen? The power of creation evangelism. Green Forest: Master Books.