

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR – June 2022

“As Far as the Curse is Found: The Healing of all Creation”

We see the depravity of mankind on display everyday. We watch the news and learn of another school shooting, another day of war, and of government officials who desire to abort babies even after they have been delivered from the womb. There is no economic, political, psychological, sociological, scientific, or technological solution to this issue. For man has never had the ability to set themselves free from their enslavement to sin. The only victory comes through the Lord Jesus Christ. As we have studied on Wednesday evenings, we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to Scripture alone and all for the glory of God alone.

In this month's meditation, I want to address another and sometimes forgotten side effect caused by the disease of sin. The Scripture's teach us that Adam's sin not only affected all posterity, but also permeated the entire created order. This does not mean that creation did not remain beautiful. The Psalmist declared that creation pours forth the natural revelation of God. Paul declared that through creation, one can see God's invisible attributes. His power, beauty, wisdom, and faithful providence are all on display. However, with that said, we must never forget that creation has been deeply hindered by sin. Paul described the created order as being in a state of misery and groaning. It does not function as it did when God created all things. We were reminded of the brokenness of creation this past week, as multiple storms travelled across our province. Not only did many people lose hydro, but more than a handful of people lost their lives. Natural disasters certainly remind us of our mortality, but they also remind us that creation is broken, and defaced by sin.

The Scriptures not only reveal the cause of creation's groaning but also remind us of the cure. How will this broken world be fixed? There are environmentalists and politicians who believe that it is man's responsibility to fix this issue. Much of their campaign is built around care for the planet. The Bible reminds us that mankind was given stewardship over creation by God, and therefore, how we treat creation is an especially important issue. However, it is also clear that we were never meant to save creation. Thus any 'save the planet' campaign conducted by man is another example of mankind's vanity and pride. In the same way that we cannot rescue ourselves from sin, so we cannot restore the created order. This can only be done by the Creator, and it is a work carried out through the Gospel of Christ. The Son of God who spoke peace to the raging sea is the only one who can bring a chaotic creation back into order.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the future kingdom of God, in which the lamb and the wolf would lie down together, while children and cobras have playdates together. This imagery speaks of the healing of creation. A day in which a hurricane or tornado will never be thought of. Through Christ, God is making all things new. As we often sing, 'Christ came to make his blessing known, as far as the curse is found'. This means that there will be a day in which creation will groan no more. What a thought! What a healing! What a restoration of creation that the people of God will witness and enjoy forevermore, all to the glory of God! Oh Lord, may thy kingdom come, and may thy will be done, here on earth, as it is in heaven!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LBC

THE BIG GIVE – This event is designed to bless the community, serve those in need and share the hope of the Gospel. It will be taking place **June 4th from 9am-1pm**. There will be a free garage sale, BBQ, car wash, and bouncy castle. If you have not signed up, and you are able to attend, please be sure to come out! Let us pray that God will grant us favour and opportunities for fruitful ministry!

Missionary Visit– On **June 19**, we will have the privilege of having Matthew McCullough and his family join us for worship. He will provide us with an update regarding their mission work with Crossroads in Cambodia.

Ladies Social Tea – All ladies are invited to this event. It takes place on **Saturday June 25th from 2-4pm**. It will be held at the Pinehill apartments. Please be sure to invite a friend to join you! Invitations are available at the church.

Communion: As of **June 5th**, we will be returning to the regular method of serving the communion elements. Pre-packaged elements will still be available for those that prefer to use this method at this time. Regardless of the method, may the Lord empower us to take the Lord's supper in a worthy manner. We will be partaking in communion on **June 5th and June 19th**.

Evening Service – Our monthly evening service will be held on **June 26th at 7pm**. Please join us as we spend time singing praises, studying God's Word and engaging in corporate prayer.

Offerings – The offering of our tithes and resources is an essential part of our worship. Though we understand that many offer their tithes through our online avenue, we continue to have offering plates available at the back of the sanctuary. If you are not using church envelopes, please be sure to mark your name down with your offering. This will help our tellers and treasurer properly complete the year end tax receipts.

Coffee Time - We are thankful to once again be able to gather after the service to have fellowship, coffee and some simple treats. Thank you to the hospitality committee, and to all who have stepped up to help with this ministry.