

A New Heaven and Earth
Isaiah 65:17-19, 24-25, June 28, 2015
Trinity Sunday IV

Sermon Text, Isaiah 65:17-19, 24-25 (KJV):

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying... And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.”

Beloved of the Lord.....It is rather safe to assume that many Christians were disappointed, angered, and depressed this week, by the ruling of the Supreme Court. According to the majority of five out of nine, all states must now allow same-sex marriage. They will be forced to recognize and give its blessing to this abomination which God calls vile and contrary to nature. Since every Christian is called to be the salt of the earth let us make sure we keep God's commandments and condemn this wicked ruling so everyone knows where we stand, namely on God's holy Word. Hebrews 13:4 says, “Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”

Lest our own soul be deceived, let us cover a few basic points on this topic. When it is argued today that two women have the right to marry, or two men, we can answer that marriage is a natural right of all men and women, but no rights have been denied. A woman who calls herself a lesbian still has the right to marry a man, likewise the man a woman. Moreover natural law teaches us, and all men know it, marriage can only be between a man and a woman by way of simple biology. Two women can never conceive a child together. That is the proof that their union is unnatural and contrary to nature. The same is true of two men. By God's simple creation of a man and woman, so that their bodies correspond and compliment one another. “Same-sex marriage” is a myth as ridiculous as Bigfoot or aliens. It simply doesn't exist because the union can never create children.

Marriage is not just simply a matter of two people who love each other or are committed to each other. Parent and children have that kind of love. Good friends have that also. Marriage is more than love and commitment, but also by God's natural design marriage is physical union of a man and woman together as one. Sex is a gift from God which God reserves only for a husband and wife, two people who have promised themselves to one another for life. Children are the natural fruit of such a union. Yet when two men or two women abuse their own bodies with one another, they are doing a great evil against nature. This is why God calls sodomites, “abusers of themselves with mankind”. Such a man is abusing his own body while he is with another man. Indeed when men or women stoop to such deviant behavior, God abandons them and leaves them to their own lusts. It is a punishment in itself to leave them as they are. So the Apostle says in Romans 1:26 and 27, “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly.”

But all this is said not so that we hate homosexuals, but so we don't become indifferent toward the sin. We can never accept a homosexual as a homosexual, as if God made him or her that way. God is not the Author of confusion. The simple proof that God did not make them that way is in their own body. A woman has a special place where she can receive the man, and she alone has a womb where a child can be formed. Likewise the man is the only one with the seed which gives life to the egg. Two women can never conceive a child together, nor two men. Every child in our world today has a mother and father, but pity the child that is raised by two women or two men. If they are raised by two men they will never know the gentle love of a mother. If they are raised by two women they will never know the protecting love of a father.

We must be living in the End Times, because our world is now so exceedingly rebellious against its own Creator, that judges are creating laws contrary to the laws of nature which God Himself made “in the beginning [when] God created the heavens and the earth.” The devil has such a death grip on the souls of men, it is a miracle the Christian Church still exists today. But thanks be to God not only does it exist and survive, but it still grows when the Gospel is

preached, and this Gospel Word which saves souls from Satan will be continually preached until the Last Day as it is written in Isaiah 54:10, "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee." Today then as we hear the blessed words of Isaiah, let us not be discouraged at the state of this nation, this kingdom of sin.....

I. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." This is not the heaven that awaits us in the future, for the Lord here says "I create" which really means "*Even now I am creating* new heavens and a new earth." Thus God, already back in Isaiah's day, some 700 years before Christ, was creating this new heaven and earth. This new heaven and earth is actually a reference to God's Kingdom of Grace, the true yet Invisible Church which God was creating already in Isaiah's day. Indeed whenever and wherever the Gospel message of Christ is preached, sinners who are dead in trespasses and sin are loosed from Satan's dark kingdom of sin, and this Gospel translates them over into a Kingdom of Salvation, a place to live with Jesus, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, Mount Zion. Though this is not a temporal world like the United States of America which we can see with our eyes, it is just as real as America, but far more glorious. We have a true and righteous Judge who by the Gospel has judged us righteous. We also have an all-powerful King whose love for us was so strong, that He went to the front lines of battle, laying down His life for us upon the cross, for "by grace are ye saved through faith". We cannot see this spiritual kingdom, nor can we touch it or feel it, but it is indeed ours by faith, just as much as Jesus is our own dear Friend, who lives in each believing heart. And though the days of our country are surely numbered because this whore known as America has despised Jesus and His Word, and has on her hands the innocent blood of aborted infants, and she has built Towers of Babel against God by creating laws contrary to nature, God's invisible Kingdom of Grace *will never ever perish*, and outshine and outlast every earthly kingdom which will be judged by fire when Christ appears in the skies, for "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

When days and times then are dark for the Christian Church, such as those days of this week, we are blessed to remember that God's Kingdom of Grace will never change or corrupt herself, for Christ Himself is the unchangeable holiness of the Church. The day will come soon enough dear child of God, that our physical world will literally fall apart when the King of kings appears, but His Kingdom, you the believer, will never perish, and when He appears in the skies your eyes will suddenly see that Invisible Kingdom you never saw before. We will see a new heaven and new earth and this present world will forever fade away.

So it is written "The former shall not be remembered nor come to mind." This means all the sadness and heartache you experience now at the state of this nation will not come into your mind nor heart ever again. How could it? Look and see who is standing there before your eyes. He is your Savior Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life who gives eternal life to all who believe. Therefore "Be ye glad and rejoice for ever *in that* which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy." You then dear believer, you who believe in Him who loves you, can still rejoice and be happy this day, no matter the state of our nation, for the love of Christ is still upon you and with you, and Jesus will be with you always, through every trial and struggle. Jesus is never going to turn on you or walk away in anger, for in His Kingdom of Grace Jesus has nothing but peace and forgiveness for you, a love which surpasses all understanding. Here you can rejoice and shout in joy that you are His New Jerusalem, a spiritual city, the "city of God" whose conversation is in heaven.

And even more than this it is Jesus Himself who says, "And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying." Don't miss these words nor overlook them! For this is Jesus who is saying "I will rejoice in you, Jerusalem, for you are My people, bought and purchased by My blood! I became a True Man for your sake!.....one of you to deliver you from sin! You are the joy of my heart even now, the apple of my eye, therefore do not weep or cry even though your world will end. My Kingdom will never perish, for I placed My holy name upon you in Baptism. Your names are written in heaven and My Gospel sets you free. Sin will not have dominion over you, but My love will live within and help you as you are a member of My own body. And on the Last Day I will open your eyes as they have never been opened before. You

will see My Kingdom, My world without end, which I long ago promised you before the foundations of the earth. Do not then be afraid of men or foolish judges who will eternally perish except they repent. I have conquered all your enemies by the cross and I promise you life everlasting with Me, your Lord, your Savior, your King.” And so.....

II. It shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. We should continue then to pray that God will grant repentance to this nation, our president, and the five blind judges whose eyes must be opened. Likewise we pray for all those poor souls who are trapped in the sinful lusts of their own body, remembering we too were once lost in sin. May God grant them repentance and the blessed faith of Christ! Such is our earnest prayer!.....through our Mediator Jesus Christ. Likewise by this passage understand dear believer, God has put in motion the answer to your prayer even before you call upon Him. He has a gracious plan for your life and even the glorious hour of your deliverance has been planned. Trust in Him and do not fear the judges of this earth or enemies of the Lord. They are pawns in God’s hands, and they can do nothing without His permission.

Yet “The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust *shall be* the serpent's meat.” Though the wolf and the lamb in real life are enemies, in the Holy Christian Church the wolf and the lamb lie together as friends, at peace with one another in the Lord. Just as the Christians in Jerusalem received Paul who formerly persecuted the Church, Christians receive all their enemies who repent and believe in Christ. Likewise let it be said if a homosexual repents of their sins and puts their faith in Jesus Christ, we would happily receive them here into our congregation with joy while the angels sing above. Likewise if those five erring judges repented of their unjust ruling, and they confessed Christ to be their Savior from sin we would rejoice. Indeed if our own president confessed his sins of bloodshed by supporting abortion, or if he repented of supporting same-sex abomination, we would receive him too, for the wolf and the lamb lie together in peace upon Mt. Zion. Indeed the serpent cannot devour us here, but he must eat dust, for no enemy “shall hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord” because “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” Keep your spiritual eyes on this kingdom dear believer, and wait for Christ by faith. “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Amen.

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