

*The Adopted Life*

Pentecost Sunday ~ 06.12.2011

## **Creator *and* Redeemer**

Psalm 104 is a hymn of praise to the Creator, the one who made the world and sustains it by the power of his Spirit. It is this emphasis on the Spirit's role in making and sustaining the creation that makes this text appropriate to the day of Pentecost and the language of the Psalm prefigures such New Testament statements of faith as Paul's declaration that we live and move and have our being in Christ (Acts 17:28.)

To speak of the Trinity as the creator of all things is to make a statement about the creation's past, its origin, and its source. But what does the Trinity's identity as the creator of all things tell us about the present and the future? Or, to put the question another way, what does it matter that God created all things if some things are left out of his gracious life and are destined to someday be tossed in the garbage can of history? There are many Christians who view the world in this way. They see some people as included in the creator's redeeming work and some as excluded. They look forward to escaping this earth and living in heaven. Yet the scripture speaks to us of all being included in the creator's redeeming work (Rom 5:18, Col. 1:19-20) and of a *new earth* *not* an escape from this earth (Rev. 21:1.)

The present and future significance of the fact that the Trinity created all things is this: since God loved the whole creation, including all of humanity, enough to create us in the first place then we can know that he also loves the whole creation, including all of humanity, so much that he will also redeem and restore the whole creation.

As the Psalmist shows us, it is right and good that we should praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for lovingly and graciously making the universe. But this praise is not only about us appreciating the origin of the creation. It is also about us appreciating the redemption and the future of the creation. We praise the Triune creator because we know that since he created all things in love he will also redeem and restore all things in love.

~ *Jonathan Stepp*