**A.M.D.G. 6th After Epiphany – A Text: 2 Cor.5: 16-21**

 **February 12th, 2017 Colin Brown preaching**

**神永不停歇 God Never Stopped.**

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ

in this way, we do so no longer. 17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.21God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

 16所以，從今以後，我們不再按照人的看法認識人；雖然我們曾經按照人的看法認識基督，但現在不再這樣了。 17如果有人在基督裡，他就是新造的人，舊事已經過去，你看，都變成新的了！18這一切都是出於　神，他藉著基督使我們與他自己和好，並且把這和好的職分賜給我們， 19就是　神在基督裡使世人與他自己和好，不再追究他們的過犯，並且把和好的道理託付了我們。20因此，我們就是基督的使者，　神藉著我們勸告世人。我們代替基督請求你們：跟　神和好吧！ 21　神使那無罪的替我們成為有罪的，使我們在他裡面成為　神的義。

God is creating, God never stopped. God first said “Let there be light… Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters… Let the waters under the sky be gathered together… And…Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees on earth (that) bear fruit…Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night… and… Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky. And God saw that it was good.” (Gen 1:1-24) On the sixth day God created all of us, on the seventh day God rested, but God’s last creation, all of us, have made sure that there hasn’t been much rest or peace since that seventh day. Like children with mild tempered parents, we ran wild. God’s own creation has suffered at our hands, suffered from our petulance as we see in the world around us. We have laid waste to the forests, fouled the air and polluted the waters: even the icecaps are melting. God has maintained God’s beautiful creation all the while. With every new sapling and reed God starts again to set right the creation that we have broken. But even more than this, Christ came to walk among us to restore our relationship with God and renew the world to eternal perfection. 。

神在创造，神永不停歇。神说：“要有光……,诸水之上要有空气……天下的水要聚在一起……让地发生青草和结种子的菜蔬，并结果子的树木……天上要有光可以分昼夜……水要多多滋生有生命之物，让鸟在天空飞翔。神看这一切都是好的。“（创世纪1：1-24）在第六天，神创造了我们人类，第七天神歇了他一切的工。但是自从第七日后神创造的人类就没有歇息过或平静过。就像温柔的父母，生了一个疯闹的孩子。神自己创造出的万有在我们人类手里受到苦难。在我们看待周围的世界，由于我们的暴躁万有也受到伤害。我们往森林里填埋垃圾，污染空气和水，甚至冰盖也融化了。神把万有保护的那么美丽，神把人类破坏的自然世界再次用新苗和芦苇恢复。不止这些，还让基督来到我们人类中间，来恢复人类与神的关系，把世界更新成永恒的完美。

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From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake, he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

所以，從今以後，我們不再按照人的看法認識人，雖然我們曾經按照人的看法認識基督，但現在不再這樣了。 如果有人在基督裡，他就是新造的人，舊事已經過去，你看，都變成新的了！這一切都是出於　神，他藉著基督使我們與他自己和好，並且把這和好的職分賜給我們， 就是　神在基督裡使世人與他自己和好，不再追究他們的過犯，並且把和好的道理託付了我們。因此，我們就是基督的使者，　神藉著我們勸告世人。我們代替基督請求你們：跟　神和好吧！ 神使那無罪的替我們成為有罪的，使我們在他裡面成為　神的義。

Here we have it straight from Paul, the cosmos has been recreated … only the forests are still clear-cut, the stream in the valley where I grew up still smells like a sewer and air quality alerts are still common around the world. Paul said that in Christ the world is remade and yet the world around me still seems the same in some very important ways.

我们直接从保罗书信中知道，宇宙已经被创造……只有森林轮廓清晰，在我成长地方的山谷溪水闻起来就像下水道的水，空气质量警醒，这些在我们周围都很普遍。保罗说在基督里，世界被重新创造。然而，我周围的世界仍然似乎以很重要的方式保持原样。

Is Paul merely placating us, giving us a pleasant fiction to distract us from a difficult degraded and fallen world? I do not think that Paul was trying to calm the crowd of Christians while their broken world got even worse. I think that Paul was doing something that is very familiar to military members. He was repeating God’s warning orders.

保罗只是用一个快乐的虚构安慰我们，不让我们在这个堕落的世界中分心吗？我不认为保罗在越来越糟糕的世界里，用这种方式安抚基督徒们。我想，保罗所做的事与军队军人有些相似。他在重复神的警告命令。

In the military, warning orders are that last briefing, the last instructions you will get before you go on a mission. For months, there would have been briefings and meetings about every aspect of the impending mission. One fills out a mountain of paperwork, all the while it is impossible to imagine that your entire life will change in a few days. It is unimaginable until the day before you leave when you receive your warning orders. These orders state in every detail where you will report, the equipment and paperwork that you will bring. Every timing and every detail necessary for the mission to begin is included in the warning orders. Most of us walked home alone on these days with heads hung low and heavy hearts. In an instant, the mission became real, the sailor inhabits that new space, they leave their families already though they will not sail until the next day. This is the day that the wives and husbands of sailors burst in to tears merely upon seeing them

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在军队里，警告命令就是最后的指令，是在你执行任务前的最后指示。对即将来的任务已经经过数月的各方面的会议讨论。有很多堆如山的文件，你不可能想象你全部的生活会在几天后改变，直到你接到警告命令，即将出发的前一天你才能想象出来。这些指令告诉你将到达地方、所带的设备和文件。每次执行每个任务需要的详细东西都包含在警告命令中。军中的大多数人在这些天都会低着头，心事重重地回家。突然，任务成为现实，水兵会到新的地方驻扎，尽管水兵会在第二天才起航，但他们要也要离开家人。这一天是这些水兵的妻子和丈夫们放声大哭的日子，只要看看他们。

Verse 16 tells us that we now regard nothing from a human point of view, or that we have received our warning orders, that our world has changed, that we now inhabit a new space. The older translations of verse 16 read more like ‘now we regard no one against flesh or compared to flesh [[1]](#footnote-1).’ Flesh is a word we see often in the works of Paul and it always means more than just skin or in this case, it means more than human kind [[2]](#footnote-2). Paul equates the flesh with the fallen world, with sin and the physical degradation of the natural world,[[3]](#footnote-3) the same natural world that we have abused and polluted. The verse tells us that we knew Christ once in the same way we know our physical world but what happened to the physical body of Jesus. Humanity abused and degraded Jesus upon a cross at Calvary, as we abuse one-another and as we abuse God’s creation still. But Christ’s crucifixion was different, with his crucifixion we all received a new beginning. Christ was our warning order to live into a new reality, to live into a new creation. Everything old is as good as passed away. God is creating a new reality all around us, but more than this, God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. We are to be as ambassadors for Christ, reconciling all of creation to God. Paul wrote “…we entreat you on behalf of Christ, to be reconciled to God, (to be part of God’s new creation).”

第16节告诉我们，现在我们不再从人类的角度来看待任何事物，或者我们已经收到了警告：世界已经改变，我们现在居住在一个新的空间。16节的旧译本读起来更像是“现在我们不把任何人看作或比作肉体。” “肉体”一词在保罗的著作中经常出现，它总是不仅仅指皮肤，或者在这种情况下，不仅仅指人类。保罗将肉体等同于堕落的世界，存在着罪恶和自然界的恶化，正是被我们滥用和污染的自然界。这节经文告诉我们，我们曾以认识物质世界的同样方式认识耶稣基督，却不知道耶稣基督的身体发生了什么。耶稣基督，在加略山的十字架上，受到人类的虐待和屈辱，正如我们互相虐待，又如我们仍然滥用上帝的创造。但是，耶稣基督的受难是不同的。因为他的受难，我们获得了一个新的开始。耶稣基督警示我们活在新现实、新创作中。旧的一切已经不在，上帝在我们周围创造了一个新的现实。不止于此，上帝还赐给我们劝人与他和好的职分。我们，作为耶稣基督的使者，使众生万物接受上帝。保罗写道：“代表耶稣基督，我们恳求您与上帝和好，（成为上帝的新创造的一部分）。”

God created the heavens and the earth, the plants producing seed and fruit, the oceans teaming with wife. With every new generation, with every sapling and new reed, God has continued to create and craft. God never stopped creating. Christ even came to walk among us to craft anew the relationship between God and man. We are God’s ambassadors, for Christ heralds of the new creation.

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Christ brought with him a taste of the finest meal that God is preparing for us, Christ brought us our warning orders and our worlds are changed. God made Christ of flesh, made God of the same stuff as this broken and corrupted world so that all of creation could share in the resurrection, so that all the world could be re-made; every tree every blade of grass can share in Christ’s eternity. So, join me this week in living into this new creation, in going out into the world, trusting that as we do good works that is for God’s design, that it is for God’s new creation. It matters not if we plant a tree or help in feeding those in need. It matters not if we plant or if we water, God will make God’s new creation grow because God never stopped creating.

上帝创造了天与地，生产种子和果实的植物，以及滋生生命的海洋。他不停地精心创造着每个新的一代，每一棵小树苗和新芦苇，从未停止。耶稣基督甚至来到我们中间，重新缔结上帝与人的关系。我们是上帝的使者，为耶稣基督预告新的创造。耶稣基督带来上帝为我们预备的最美味的餐饭，带来给我们的警示，我们的世界改变了。上帝以这个破碎、腐败的世界同样的材质塑造了耶稣基督的肉体，使所有的创造物得以同享复活，使整个世界得以改变，使每一棵树每一叶草分享耶稣基督的永恒。所以，本周请和我一起生活到这个新创造中，走向世界，并且相信我们做的善事，是为了上帝的设计和上帝的新创造。重要的不是我们是否种一棵树或帮忙为有需要的人提供食物，我们是否种植或浇水并不重要，上帝会让他的新创造生长，因为上帝从未停止过创造。

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)