

CHAPTER 09 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: “SAINTS AND SINNERS”

Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything, by Jeremy Treat

1. The author states on p. 172, “...by God’s grace we *have been* saved from the penalty of sin, we *are being* saved from the power of sin, and we *will be* saved from the presence of sin.” (p. 172).
 - Have you heard of our salvation in Christ described in this way before? What kind of questions does it bring to your mind?
 - How does this three-fold description help you understand your experience of salvation in Christ?
2. In speaking about the future New Creation on p. 174, the author says, “Revelation 21 teaches that salvation is not leaving earth for heaven, it’s the *renewal* of heaven and earth. The reconciling power of God’s grace brings heaven and earth together, as they were meant to be. The new creation is a physical *and* spiritual place where we will eat, play, work, in love, and do so apart from the toil and pain of the sinful world. The Bible is a rescue story, but it’s not about God rescuing sinners *from* a broken creation; it’s about God rescuing sinners *for* a new creation” (p. 174).
 - Have you tended to think of heaven as something merely spiritual, that is, non-physical? Where do you think this idea comes from?
 - Are you excited or inspired by the idea of God’s future kingdom being a renewal of this physical earth? What questions does it provoke in your mind?
3. On p. 181, the author says, “ The crucifixion, with the resurrection, accomplished what is necessary to reverse the curse and renew creation. The resurrection of the Son of God was the dawn of the new creation. As we await the complete renewal of the heavens and earth, everyone who is ‘in Christ’ is declared to be a ‘new creation’ (2 For. 5:17). The renewal has begun, and the reign of God is spreading, through in a hidden and subversive way.”
 - In what sense can we say the the resurrection of the Son of God was the dawn of the new creation?
 - How does it challenge and stimulate your thinking to believe that you are a part of the renewal of creation now since in Christ you are a “new creation”?
 - In what other ways do you see the reign of God spreading in our world? What questions do you have about this?
4. What is your biggest takeaway from this discussion? What is the one thing you want to remember going forward?