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To Create... what is it?

Everybody seeks to be happy, and at the end of all the festivity and merriment of the Lunar New Year, we must finally ask ourselves if we are truly happy. True happiness is when we have been made new creatures with a new life in Christ, a creation that comes about because we have trusted in the work that Jesus Christ has done on the cross, trusted in that He died for your sins.

'To Create' (造)

The word 'to create' (造) comprises four characters, an iconographic record of the creation of the first man.

造 = 辵 + 告 (亻 + 土 + 口)
to create move speak life dust mouth

Character for 'Speak'

Genesis 1:26, 2:7 says, 'And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ... And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life ...' When God *made* Adam, He molded him with the *dust* of the ground, *breathed* into his nostrils the breath of *life*.

Character for 'To Create'

The final portion of Genesis 2:7 also says, '... man became a living soul.' Adam became a living soul, not as a baby but as a fully formed adult, able to *talk* and *walk*.

Many years ago, the ancient scholar Augustine observed that "men go abroad to wonder at the height of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long course of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars; and they pass by themselves without wondering." Indeed, while we stand in amazement at so many stunning scenes from our unique Universe, we often fail to stand amazed at the marvelous creation that is man. He is the result of purposeful creation by God.

Man as Fallen Creature

Alas! When Adam disobeyed the command of God to abstain from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he became a fallen creature. His Fall brought all mankind into an estate of sin and misery:

***Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;
and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
(Romans 5:12)***

The whole of mankind was plunged into millennia of sadness and sorrow under the bondage of sin and corruption. Man is not what he was intended to be. He is not what he ought to be.

Man as New Creature

But just as God created the original first man Adam, He can make us to be new creations in Christ Jesus. We can be made new creatures with a new life in Christ. We can be changed, truly changed, and become a better person, just like a new man. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.'

We are not talking about reformation. We are not talking about a man just laying down a pack of cigarettes telling you that he is not going to smoke anymore. We are talking about letting God make a new creature out of you. We are talking about a new nature brought about by the transforming power of God. Isn't that wonderful? This is true happiness!

The question then is this. Have you trusted in the work that Jesus Christ has done on the cross, trusted in that He died for your sins? For when you accept the grace of Christ in dying for your sins, you become a new creation in Him. 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.'

May you be a new creature, with a new life in Christ this Lunar New Year!

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