

# Restoration of All Things 2

- We have the Holy Spirit of Truth in us and with us as our guide
- We have Jesus the way, truth and life in us and with us to disciple us
- We have our loving Father in us and with us to Father us into sonship
- Agape love should be what we use to measure and test everything against

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The 4 streams of thought that are converging into one mighty river are:
- Mystic sonship, Realised Eschatology, Universal reconciliation, Energy frequency healing
- Realised eschatology inevitably leads to universal reconciliation because all Jesus prophesied about Gehenna was fulfilled in AD70 not a distant future

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Realised eschatology leads to universal restoration
- Apokatastasis is the early church Greek term for the restoration of all things
- Christian Universalism (CU) is the belief in the restoration of all things

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The essence, nature and characteristic of God who is Father, Son and Spirit as love is the backdrop to all our discussion about creation's beginning and end
- Creation's beginning and consummation is totally connected to Jesus being the Alpha and Omega



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Col 1:16 .. **all things** have been created through Him (Jesus) and for Him. 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself,
- Eph 1:10 the summing up of **all things** in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.  
In Him

## Restoration of All Things 2

- 1 Cor 15:28 When **all things** are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may **be all in all**.
- Col 3:11 but Christ **is all, and in all**.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Creation from beginning to consummation is Jesus or Christ centred or Christocentric
- So restoration must be Christocentric
- Jesus is at the centre of God's purposes and we are in Him as God's sons

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**,
- Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- What is Christian Universalism even though I do not want to be labelled it is useful to know what it is and what it is not
- There is a stigma attached to the word universalism that causes great offense to evangelical streams of thought



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Christian universalism definition by Robin Parry who I thank for influencing some of this content
- Christian universalism is the belief that **in the end** all people will participate in the **salvation** achieved for them by **Jesus**

# Restoration of All Things 2

- What Christian Universalism (CU) is not
- The belief that all roads lead to God (all religions or none) Only Jesus leads us to the Father
- The belief that there is no punishment after death.
- The belief that the Bible is wrong. I use the Bible a lot but confirmationally biased views may be wrong

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The belief that sin is not a big deal. Sin as lost identity leading to damaging behaviours is obviously important
- The belief that it does not matter how we live. There are clear consequences of how we live. We reap what we sow
- The belief that God is loving but not just. There is no contradiction in love, holiness and justice.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The belief that we do not need to evangelise. God saves through the good news, the gospel, on either side of death
- How do people come to CU position scripture, tradition, experience and reflection of how this relates to who God is

# Restoration of All Things 2

- My encounters led me to see that CU best reflects the nature and characteristic of God as Father and the Bible truth when interpreted through the lens of love
- The Bible plays a key role in most people's journey towards a CU or a universal restoration perspective



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Traditional Christian views align with CU when not biasedly interpreted
- We are made in God's image, God loves everyone, Jesus died for everyone
- It keeps inevitably leading people to this truth
- Many orthodox early church father's beliefs were consistently CU

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Good books
- A larger Hope Universal Salvation from Christian Beginnings to Julian of Norwich – Ilaria Ramelli
- A larger Hope Universal Salvation from The Reformation to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century – Robin Parry
- Many great YouTube videos

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Personal experience and testimony of encountering God as love through face to face engagements
- I have testimony after testimony of heavenly experiences of the heart of God and actually going into the fire as do others.
- There are good testimonies of people's journeys many were mystics Jane Ward Lead, Julian of Norwich

# Restoration of All Things 2

- CU is a simple concept that is consistent with many different views
- Atonement views that encompassed PSA or hates it
- Free will and sovereignty both views are held by CU adherents
- Sacraments, Catholics, Orthodox, Quakers
- Inclusivism or Exclusivism saved but do not know it explicitly or only by faith

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Great diversity amongst CU adherents
- Many current controversy and issues of debate and disagreement
- Debate over specific texts about “hell” or ECT, annihilationism, sheep and goats,
- Scriptural paradoxes, Calvinism and Arminianism,
- Study of the early church fathers opens the debate to CU e.g. Origen



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Origins of Apokatastasis restoration of all things where did it come from?
- Some say it is a gnostic infection but I believe there clear Christian roots and Biblical roots and traditional roots e.g. there are accounts of the early church praying for people to be freed from the Lake of Fire

# Restoration of All Things 2

- There are questions that are raised.
- The nature of divine justice as retributive or restorative
- If there is free will how could God ensure all will be restored?
- Can we thwart God's purposes?
- Divine love and its implication regarding the atonement PSA, CV, limited or full, Jesus' death cannot be in vain,

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Election predestination only some elected, to some elected to salvation and some to damnation
- No election of individuals but of Christ but all are sharing in that election by their inclusion in Christ
- In CU discussions there are many different points of view and positions

# Restoration of All Things 2

- What questions do we need to ask that frame the discussion?
- These were posed by Thomas Talbott
- 1. Is it God's redemptive purpose for the world (and therefore His will) to reconcile all sinners to Himself

# Restoration of All Things 2

- 2. Is it within God's power to achieve His redemptive purpose for the world
- 3. Will some sinners never be reconciled to God, and will God condemn them to "hell" for ever?
- You can find some support from the Bible for each statement but they cannot all be true



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Calvinist say 1 is wrong but 2 and 3 are correct
- Arminianism say 1 is correct and 3 is correct but 2 is rejected
- CU accept 1 and 2 but rejects 3
- Everyone can find agreement or problems in the interpreted in the Bible
- There seem to be contradictions or paradoxes that is why we need direct revelation

# Restoration of All Things 2

- There are 2 threads that run throughout the Bible that seem paradoxical
- Judgement, condemnation punishment some/many/most
- Salvation for all
- How do they relate together?
- Respect that there are different views with genuine reasons for those beliefs and honour people in our differences

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Thread 1 - Eschatological punishment  
Matt 25:46 eternal punishment, Mark 9:47, 2 Thes 1:9 Rev 21:8
- Thread 2 Universal restoration
- Col 1:1-20 reconcile all things of creation,
- Rom 5:18-19 justification for all those in Adam
- Phil 2:10-11 every knee will bow heaven, earth and under the earth

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Bible interpreters teaches incompatible views of the future. What do we do with that?
- Accept it and don't be bothered
- Opt for one thread and reject the other
- Try to harmonise the views to make the two fit
- Engage God directly about it.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- In the end, God... Eschatology is a function of our view of God; it is what must be true if God is the God that I believe in. Angry or loving
- If God is revealed in Jesus what is the end like from His express image
- From our perspective there is a choice between life and death and if you choose death that will be the result



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Seeing it from God's perspective in the end everyone will choose life
- The Bible is revealing the 2 realities from 2 different perspectives
- Read the universal salvation in the light of "hell" and interpret biasedly to fit your view. Therefore we know what the "hell" passages mean therefore the "universalist" passages cannot mean what they seem to

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Universalist text are then reinterpreted to harmonise them with ECT in “hell”
- An example when all is used well all must mean kinds of people rather than all people because we know some people are in “hell”
- Texts that state God wants all saved but it will not happen because of free will.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- There are those that only look at proof texts for what they believe and ignore everything else
- 10 passages that affirm ETC as fact is a point in case in a recent book
- Isa 66:22-24, Dan 12:2-3, Matt 18:6-9, 25:31-46, Mark 9:42:48, 2 Thes 1:6-10, Jude 7:13, Rev 3:14:9-11, Rev 20:10, 14-15
- I do not believe they prove ECT at all and what about the rest of the Bible

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Read “hell” in light of universal texts and interpret these from that light and from Biblical themes
- Hold biblical teachings together than keep them in balance
- Eph 1:9-10, Col 1:19-20, Rev 5:13, Rom 5:18-20. 2 Cor 5:19
- The promises have truth principles that underpin the texts they are not to be taken in isolation

# Restoration of All Things 2

- There are those who say the “hell” passages do not teach everlasting “hell” as the words do not mean everlasting.
- The literal texts or language do not mean forever
- Therefore “hell” is real but only temporary but could be a long time but not compared to eternity



# Restoration of All Things 2

- There are seemingly contradictory statements where you find the language of wrath that threaten punishment but then promises of restoration afterwards
- Jeremiah applies punishment to the Gentiles and Israel as incurable but then cured it.
- These create tension when we read these paradoxical statements

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Ezekeil 16 God destroys Sodom but God then restores Sodom
- What is the context of the threat can we assume there is not anything else after.
- There is no real threat if restoration is promised
- Prophets e.g. Jonah pronounced judgment to Nineveh but then God restored them much to Jonah's annoyance

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The absence of restoration in a judgement text cannot be used to argue from silence
- Is a text limited to what the author intended or can it unfold and expand or can revelation be progressive from old to new
- Isa 45 and Phil 2 is an example
- An invite to the survivor of the nations to be saved and then it gives an oath to save them all

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Phil 2 Paul applies this to Jesus that every knee will bow and expands the prophecy to all heaven, earth, under the earth.
- Paul expanded the prophecy in Jesus to all including the dead and everyone.
- Revelation of Isa 45 provides the starting point for the expansion to include all beyond what Isaiah meant to all that is fulfilled in Jesus

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The doctrine of trinity is not explicitly revealed but various biblical thoughts converge in these teachings, come together and meet in the truth of God being Father, Son and Spirit.
- Universal salvation brings various truth streams together as a whole. It becomes the natural implication of where the various teachings are heading.



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Paul and others may have not directly answered the questions that we are asking but that is where his teachings lead.
- This is the convergence of various thoughts. You cannot limit the issue to only certain texts e.g. Love and justice, sin and the victory of the cross. Free will and sovereignty

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Are we open to fresh and progressive revelation?
- Or is everything a done deal where we know all we need to know.
- We need to see that each part is part of a larger metanarrative.
- Does E.T.C. really fit within the overall story narrative of creation?

# Restoration of All Things 2

- We must see the individual stories in light of the overall truth which is not just derived from just one author
- We need revelation in light of what is written and said for our day so we can serve the purpose of God in our generation through who we are and what we say.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- What is the metanarrative of the story of salvation that gives a context for “hell” and CU in relation to the beginning of creation and the end of creation
- What is the best end to the story which is in keeping with the overall narrative

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Hell or CU which is most harmonious and which is most discordant?
- Looking at creation and eschatology in its wider perspective not just the biblical end
- Creation is created for something that is related to Jesus from Him and for him



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Rom 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen
- Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- God is the destiny of creation there is no suggestion that creation was made to be separated from God
- Gen 1:26-28 Our coheirship is that we are sons and heirs of creation. Our identity and destiny and responsibility is linked to creation itself Rom 8:19-21 and its freedom is linked to our freedom

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Gen 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule
- Rom 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Our destiny is oneness, union with God that is the goal of creation beginning and end
- Jesus pronounced us gods with a little g
- There is nothing that points to us to the idea that man was created for judgment and “hell”
- Human destiny is seen in Jesus as the perfect model of sonship

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Jesus is the last Adam
- The first Adam was not the finished article but had ascension to go through.
- Adam was first was a living soul and sin side-tracked him from being glorified in sonship.
- Jesus as the second or last Adam is a life giving spirit to bring us to resurrection ascension glory



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Eternal “hell” implies either:
- A problem with creation as some must have been created for “hell”!
- The eternal thwarting of God’s purpose in creating man!
- God is not powerful enough to fulfil His purposes!
- CU says God fulfils His purpose in the end and unifies creations purpose

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Sin and the fall
- Sin side-tracks people from the course set towards God the source of life and turns them towards death away from God
- Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is age enduring life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Sin affects all people Rom 3:23 all have sinned

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Sin is the road block between the creation purpose and its fulfilment
- Sin is actually the specific definitive sin of Adam that has affected us all
- Sin is actually our lost identity as God's children.
- We have lost our way and our memory so we don't know who we are what our purpose is

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Is sin bigger than and more powerful than our Father who created us in His image for relationship with Him?
- Sin and eternal “hell” are linked as the doctrine of “hell” is built on the premise of human sin is more powerful than God’s solution Jesus and the cross
- Sin wins! No love wins because love has always won.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Therefore is it human sin that determines the destiny of creation or is it God's eternal creative purpose?
- Which is more powerful sin or God's desire and purpose.
- Is the story of the Bible one of overall ultimate victory (Jesus wins) or defeat (sins wins)
- Jesus has won is winning and will win



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Will God allow sin to derail God's purpose for creation for ever?
- What is God's solution to the sin problem is that good enough to deal with the consequences, wages or results of sin?
- Is what Jesus did through the cross (death, burial, resurrection and ascension more powerful and victorious over sin?
- Yes and amen

# Restoration of All Things 2

- 2 Cor 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
- Col 2:13.. He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The whole metanarrative is the story of Jesus and creation
- In creation God created all things through Christ Col 1:16
- In redemption God reconciles all things through Christ Col 1:20
- In Eschatology God will unite all things in Christ Eph 1:10

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Col 1:16 .. all things have been created through Him (Jesus) and for Him.
- Col 1:20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself,
- Eph 1:10 the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The incarnation, Immanuel God is with us is the key to understanding who God is
- Jesus represents and reveals the invisible God
- What kind of God do we see in Jesus?
- What purposes of God are revealed in Jesus?
- Jesus demonstrates God as love in healing, forgiving, raising and delivering people



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Being the son of man Jesus represents all humanity before God
- As our representative Jesus takes humanity through death the problem created by sin and then resurrects mankind to new life
- Did Jesus represent all humans or only some people? – all the sins of the whole world

# Restoration of All Things 2

- At the crucifixion what did Jesus do through His death was it for all people or some people? - **ALL**
- Jesus represented our broken humanity and lost identity so we can be healed and restored
- Jesus died for our sin bearing the consequence of sin taking our death into the grave and went beyond through the victory of the resurrection over death

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Jesus was raised from the dead taking back the keys of death and Sheol or Hades defeating the wages of sin by overcoming death for all of humanity
- Did Jesus die for all or only some people?

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The Calvinistic view of limited atonement was for only some elected people
- Was Christ's death for nothing?
- The Arminianistic view says yes because of our free will to choose can thwart God's purposes

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Resurrection and ascension to rule
- In resurrection is the salvation of all from death achieved or just made possible?
- Salvation is achieved in the body of Christ as in the middle of history the end of the story or the eternal purpose has broken in



# Restoration of All Things 2

- In the kingdom of God, the age to come, the new heavens and new earth, the future is here now.
- The end is revealed in the resurrection and is the promise of what is now for all who are now alive in Christ born from above

# Restoration of All Things 2

- To be confident that God will save all people is because all are made alive in Christ in the resurrection 1 Cor 15:21-22
- What determines the end of the story?
- Sin leading to “hell”
- Jesus leading to salvation for all
- Universal restoration for all things

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Salvation is something we have to participate in for it to be realised in our lives
- As a man thinks in his heart so is he
- Past. The Spirit is seeking to unite us in and join us to what Jesus has done therefore we have been saved in Christ (He died we died, he resurrected we were made alive)
- This is a done deal

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Present. The Spirit is working to transform us to become more like Jesus therefore we are being saved in Christ. Salvation being worked out in our maturing in sonship
- Future. The Spirit will raise us from the dead if we die physically so we will be saved from death's sting
- We need to participate so we are either living in or living outside of what Jesus did but we are all already included in it.

# Restoration of All Things 2

- To be outside is to remain living in Adam still affected by sin and death still living in lost identity and a less than kind of life
- Is that person currently saved in Christ?
- The answer is yes and no depending on how you phrase the question
- Yes they are fully including in what Jesus did on the cross as part of humanity
- No they are not living in that experience



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Will that person one day actively experience that reality of salvation in Christ?
- CU would say Yes because that is the harmonious end to the story and is fully in line with the metanarrative of creation from the beginning to the end

# Restoration of All Things 2

- What about “hell”?
- The story indicates that there are two roads to follow that have two separate destinations
- Life and death heaven or “hell”
- The message is clear throughout the story, choose life and avoid death
- Is the second death an ultimate or penultimate fate?

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The end of the story for CU is that there would be hope beyond death and “hell”
- “Hell” is only a penultimate fate that is consistent with the story narrative
- Many in the early church did not think that eternal destiny was fixed at death.
- Heb 9:27 Judgment is not punishment and death is not inevitable but this does not say death is the end of choice

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The opportunity of choice after death is not denied in the Bible.
- There is hope beyond “hell” according to many in the early church and that is certainly my experience
- Is “hell” everlasting? - **NO**
- It is not clear from the passages and many are vague about condemnation, death etc. but they do not mention everlasting

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The interpretation of aionios as everlasting is not an accurate reflection of its Greek meaning
- Sheep and goats argument in Latin is everlasting life everlasting punishment
- How long it lasts is not explicit in the words themselves. There nothing that says that punishment is everlasting.



# Restoration of All Things 2

- Lake of fire as torment for ever and ever is in the context of those thrown into the fire but still ending up ending up in the New Jerusalem
- Nations and kings of the earth are not the church yet in Rev 21 these nations and kings enter the New Jerusalem and enter through the blood of the lamb
- The image of “hell” as ECT is not present within the narrative

# Restoration of All Things 2

- What does Christian Universalism believe?
- All those created by God will be brought to the destiny that God created them for
- All those that God desires to save and Jesus came to save will be saved that is all things that He created

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Jesus, not sin, will determine the future of creation
- Everlasting “hell” is not evangelical in that it thwarts God’s purpose in creation and salvation and is incompatible with the God of the gospel story

# Restoration of All Things 2

- The God is who wholly love not just love or holy but is in essence love will have His way eventually through kindness, tolerance and patience
- It will be all right in the end and if it is not alright it is not the end
- In the end God will be all in all and if He is not then it is not yet the end of the story

# Restoration of All Things 2

- CU gives us hope of God's ultimate triumph over evil
- CU gives joy that Jesus brings all sons to glory
- CU gives us the hope of glory in the face of suffering and tribulations that there will be ultimate victory in time as well as eternity



# Restoration of All Things 2

- If God has given us free will to choose then why would he take away our free will to choose Him after we die
- It is difficult to comfort those facing death or who are mourning someone who has died without the hope of CU yourself
- CU gives hope because God is love and love wins

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Rest is the key to restoration and revelation
- Start to focus on your breathing slowing it down and start thinking of the name of God YHVH
- Breathe in deeply and exhale slowly  
Yod
- Breathe in Hei and out Vav

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Repeat in Hei out Yod in Hei and out Vav
- Be still and know that I am God
- I am love, I am joy, I am peace

# Restoration of All Things 2

- Invite love, joy and peace flow in you and through you to create an atmosphere of rest around you
- You are in a safe place
- Start to think of an open heaven and set your desire upon it