



We measure time in relation to the birth of Jesus. All dates end with a suffix, B.C or A.D., indicating whether an event took place before Jesus' birth or after. The whole world does this.

The fact that the whole world records time in relation to the birth of Jesus does indicate something about his importance.

Ronald Rolheiser

THE CROSS

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

'CROSS'

- The 'cross' does not equate with 'being religious'
- Rather it points to being in relationship with Jesus

'WORLD'

- The 'world' does not mean God's creation
- Rather it points to the world's value system
- It equates with a self-preoccupation at the expense of others

A TRANS-VALUATION

- A total reassessment of values in light of the cross
- "The accepted standards of social life are necessarily turned upside down." (F.F. Bruce)

A NEW CREATION

For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!

Galatians 6:14

OLD-ORDER VALUES

- Boasting in our selves or our chosen group belongs to the old order (circumcision or uncircumcision)
- Such things have no real importance

A NEW ORDERING

- What is important – both for the person and the cosmos - is the on-going life found in Jesus
- Paul calls this 'a new creation' – a new ordering of things based on abundance

A NEW CENTRE

- Peace and power
- An assurance of a shared life in Jesus characterized by a quality and quantity of abundance

'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."'

John 7:37b-38

A NEW CANON

As for those who will follow this rule – peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Galatians 6:14

A NEW RULE OF LIFE

- A principle of the new creation
- Keeping in step with the Spirit (5:25)
- Our every day in the new order

Living in the new creation involves finding a way of regarding people differently than in the old order, where race, nationality, sex, economics, and the like provide categories by which individuals and groups are valued.

It means no longer “using” people as an occasion for selfish boasting. Instead, they become recipients of a service offered in love, neighbors to be cared for, those for whom God’s mercy is freely given.

Charles B. Cousar

CROSS:

A new relationship in Jesus

CREATION:

Abundant life in Jesus

CANON:

Walking in step with Jesus