

## Column

Boys seem to be drawn to cars, trucks included. Perhaps we should say, vehicles with wheels.

More than that, the age of the boy does not seem to matter, as borne out this past week when members of our church's men group -- all well beyond adolescence in terms of chronological years -- took a field trip to the Savoy Automobile Museum in Cartersville. I was happy to be a part of this group of young at heart pilgrims.

No sooner inside the state-of-the-art facility, heads were poked inside windows looking at interiors, fingers were pointed at various exterior components and stories were being passed about 'my first car'. Everyone had a great time.

The vehicles in the Savoy Museum are fascinating not only because of their shiny exteriors and the engines that powered them but, upon more serious reflection, for the change they brought about in terms of human society. Imagine making even a four or five-mile trip to buy supplies or to attend church in a horse-drawn wagon or carriage. Worse still, think about a family member being taken sick, perhaps in the middle of the night, and not being able to get immediate help.

Without a doubt, motorized transportation created a revolution, just as truly as the invention of the printing press in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and computers and the Internet at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

It would be tempting to say that the world came of age as result of one or all of these technological advances, and no doubt there is some truth in such thinking. After all, each has impacted the way we think and live today.

Yet, I would want to argue that the greatest sea-surge change of all came about a little over 2000 years ago when the Creator of the stars came down as one of us and died and rose again. If you think about it, this was the real turning point in the history of the world.

For as long as anyone could remember, people had been going through the door of death with no one coming out. Sure, there were various speculations about what followed, but they were just that, speculations. Jesus changed all that. Further, in the New Testament, the apostle Paul calls Him "the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Corinthians 15:20). What he means by 'firstfruits' is that what

happened to Jesus is set to happen to His believing people at some point in the future. They too will be raised to the same type of life.

In Him the ultimate questions of life -- Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? – find answers. A new day dawns.

The stories of cars and other technological advances are fascinating . . . little boys should go on playing with their cars. But the most fascinating story of all is the one of God's down-reach for mankind in the Person of His Son. Because of Jesus, the world is a different place and can never be the same.

Nothing short of a revolution has begun. More than that, each one of us is called to join in and be a part of it. Purpose and a destiny await. Why delay? Come, follow Jesus!

*O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Collect for the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, Book of Common Prayer)*

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