

# LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

Ronny F. Wade, Speaker

## A NEW CREATION

"If any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things pass away, all things become new" 2Corinthians 5:17. When we see all about us the defilement of humanity and the corruption of our society we are made to say with Isaiah "all we like sheep have gone astray" Isa.53:6, and Paul who declared "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23.

It is evident that some kind of radical and vital change must take place if man is to please God and be saved. We cannot continue the current style of living, characteristic of so many, that is in violation of the scriptures. The change under which we all must go is referred to in the bible as a translation from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of Christ or God's dear Son. (Colossians 1:13-14) Jesus declared that we must all be converted Matthew 18:3, and be born again or anew John 3:5. Our text from 1Corinthians 5:17 declares that we must become new creations. The idea expressed in all these passages is similar. The scriptures are telling us that we must undergo a change if we are to please God. But, how? In what way does this change take place?

The Apostle Paul describes this change in Ephesians 4:22-24 when he talks about "putting off the old man." Notice: "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." The old man, or former life, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts is crucified or put to death Galatians 2:20. According to Romans 6:3-4, the old man is buried. This takes place in baptism. Just as Christ was put to death and buried, and then resurrected, we in like manner die to sin, are buried in baptism, and resurrected to walk a new life. Paul in the Roman quotation makes the burial significant of one thing, and the resurrection significant of something else. The burial signifies our death to sin, the resurrection our being made alive to righteousness. No part of the old man should be raised. There is no such thing as a "holy child of the devil." or an "unholy child of God." Many try to hold on to the "old man" after becoming a Christian. This cannot be. As a child of God, we are to "abhor evil and cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9). We are to "abstain from the appearance of evil" 1Thessalonians 5:22. This means that because we have "been born again" we no longer practice the sinful deeds of the past. Our life has been changed. We are truly a new creation. This is signified by our putting on the "new man", which is created in true holiness. Paul said "nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Christ lives in the born again Christian. Old things have passed away, all things have become new.

What are the new things to which our text refers? In what way are we new and how do we show it in our daily living? First of all, we have:

## A NEW LIFE---Romans 6:3-4.

We rise from baptism to "walk in newness of life." Old things have passed away. What are these old things? My old sinful ways, are now gone. That may mean that I will need to abandon my "old friends", my "old hang-outs", the places where I used to spend my time. The ungodly practices that characterised my former life are now gone. I am new. I have started over, what a great blessing. Many today would like to start life over. There are things in their past they would like to forget. I have good news for you. YOU CAN. In Christ you can enter the land of beginning again where all things become new. Because of your new life, you will live by:

## A NEW STANDARD.

Christ is the Christian's standard 1 Peter 2:21. He represents perfection in every way. No one could convict Him of sin, John 8:46. And even though he was tempted in all points like we are, he was without sin Hebrews, 4:15. Many people have a problem today when they try to justify themselves by looking to others. This is a mistake. There may be people better than you are, or worse than you are. They are not your standard. Christ is. The world, our friends, society in general, or the current culture do not represent the standard by which we measure our lives or by which we will be judged in the final day. We must determine our actions by asking "what would Jesus do?" He determines right and wrong for those of us seeking to live the Christian life. But, we also have:

## A NEW FELLOWSHIP.

While we lived in the kingdom of darkness, our fellowship was with the king of that kingdom and his subjects. (the Devil and his followers) But as a new creation in Christ, we have a new fellowship with God and Christ. "Our fellowship is with the Father and his son" 1 John 1:3. We are privileged to walk and work with those who share the same ideals and goals and we labor together in Christ. This makes our life easier and more enjoyable. We are also driven by:

## A NEW MOTIVE.

Because of a change of heart and life, the new creature is motivated by different forces. He now loves righteousness and hates evil. The evil base passions no longer dominate his thinking and conduct. Such things as envy, jealousy, hatred, a thirst for power or pre-eminence no longer motivate his actions. He has learned to "Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good" Romans 12:9. Regarding Jesus the scripture says "Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity Hebrews 1:9. What motivates or moves us is very important. The right thing can drive us in the direction of godly living and a home in heaven. The wrong thing can keep us out of heaven and lead us into sin and evil. We all need this new motive that is ours when we become a new creation in Christ.

## A NEW PURPOSE

Every worthwhile life has a purpose, a reason for being. Before we became a new creature, it might have been selfish gain or self indulgence. But now, it is to live for Jesus. Paul wrote "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:13-14.

It now becomes more blessed to give than receive. We are concerned about the success of truth and the defeat of error.

## A NEW OUTLOOK

This is very important. When the world has done its best for us, it is short indeed. Our life here is bounded by the cradle and the grave, and at best the space between the two is not very long. In fact we hardly begin to live until we begin to die. But in Christ all things are different. The outlook extends to eternity. In 1John 3:2 we read "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Think about it, a place where death never comes, where disease cannot attack, a place where there are no tears. What a great outlook. Do you have that promise today? If not you need to prepare before it is too late.

## NEW DUTIES

With all the new blessings we enjoy in Christ, comes new duties and responsibilities. We have been saved to serve Matthew 20:26-28. Jesus came to minister not to be ministered unto. That same philosophy should characterize us. These duties are a joy not a burden, they are an opportunity not a hardship. We read in 1John 5:3 "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." What a wonderful joy to serve as a Christian.

## A NEW NAME

The new creature has a new name. In Isaiah 62:2, we find the following prophecy "And Gentiles shall see thy righteousness and all kings thy glory and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." Also in chapter 56:5 "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off." What is this new name and where is it to be given? First of all we learn according to the prophecy that the name will be given in God's house. Paul wrote to Timothy and said in 1Timothy 3:15 "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." If the house of God is the church of the living God, then the name is to be given in the church. In Acts 11:26 the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. We read also

in 1Peter 4:16 that if any suffer as Christian he should glorify God in this name. Think of the honor of wearing the name of Christ. The privilege of being in Christ in his Church and wearing his name. No greater honor could be bestowed upon anyone. Do you wear that name today? You can if you are in the church. However, if you are not, then you have no right to that name given the children of God. Do you wear only that name? Or do you wear another name for which there is no bible precedent? But finally, if you are a new creature you have the promise of :

#### A NEW REWARD

Whatever the world can offer you, in terms of riches, fame, or power, it can never offer you anything comparable to that which God offers you through Christ. Think about these blessings: the forgiveness of sins, victory over sin and death, the hope of everlasting life, peace with God and all men, and ultimately a home in heaven. What more could one have or want? Just to be at home with God in Heaven. What a blessing. Peter wrote in 2Peter 3:13 "Nevertheless, we according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

All these blessings can be yours in Christ. However if you are not yet in Christ, then you cannot claim them. Won't you consider becoming a Christian today? Aren't you ready to become a new creation, so that old things can pass away and all things can become new?