

## Hear . Believe . Live

### Celebrating Newness Part 2

January 28, 2018

GC Purpose: To create community, build relationships, and support one another through the Word of God and prayer.

GC Goal: To build authentic relationships with God & with one another.

Opening: What place does human philanthropy have in the world?

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### Celebrating Newness

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 ESV

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. v.14***

We must recognize the work God is doing in us—we are his new creation. Don't let Satan discourage you and make you doubt this by his constant attacks.

In 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Paul emphasizes that the love of Christ controls us THEREFORE vs. 14,16,17,20.

1. In Adam, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
2. Jesus, the second Adam, died and resurrected
  - a. He died for sin and offers salvation
  - b. He conquered death
  - c. He resurrected and, thus, gives new life.
3. We are reconciled with God.
4. God is no longer counting our trespasses against us.

God does not want to keep a record of our sins against us. He wants to forgive us and save us. However, IF we do not accept Christ as Savior and are forgiven of our sin, it is our sins that will condemn us.
5. **We are a new creation.**
6. We are the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ, our reconciler.
7. We no longer live for ourselves, we live for Christ who died and resurrected for us.
8. God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation.

In 1 Corinthians 6:11 we are told that we were *washed, sanctified* ("holified" Pastor Ed translation), *justified*. In 2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul addresses the Corinthians as **saints**. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 *'in him we might become the righteousness of God.'*

THEREFORE:

When we are saved, God puts His seal on us and gives us the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee – a down payment / a first installment – of all that God has done for us while we are still here on earth ... which will be totally and completely fulfilled when we are with Him in heaven!!!

Romans 8:1-17 God reminds us therefore that there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Jesus Christ. God performed 'spiritual heart surgery'—he gave us a new heart at salvation!

I was a sinner saved by grace; I **am** a saint by the grace of God.

We no longer live as a sinner who needs to be saved. We live as the saved being perfected into the likeness of Christ. We no longer live in the process of salvation. We live in the process of sanctification.

Satan wants to convince us we are not saved, that we can't make it, don't have it, should give up.

Romans 8:4 we are reminded that we no longer walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit!

In John Newton's song Amazing Grace our former wretched sinful condition is recognized but God's amazing grace saves us.

In Galatians 5:1-26 Paul emphasizes our freedom in Christ and shows that if we are led by the Spirit we bear that fruit. However if we are led by our selfish carnal nature we produce the works of the flesh.

We have God Almighty the Holy Spirit living in us to supply us with ALL we need to live "in the Spirit" vertically with God and horizontally with one another! God has given us a never-ending well – the Holy Spirit -- to draw from!

Love is at the start of the list in Galatians 5:22-23, and the list ends with self-control – which makes it possible for us to live-out the reality of the Holy Spirit living in us!

Galatians 5:1 *For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

#### Application:

1. Why is it that 'Those who are in the flesh can not please God' Romans 8:8. Doesn't human philanthropy have any value?
2. How as a new creation do we deal with sin that still besets us (Hebrews 12:1)?
3. Why is trying to be saved by the law the same as being severed from Christ (Galatians 5:4)?
4. What does it mean that we are a new creation not just forgiven sinners?
5. Tell your GC how this section of scripture has impacted you.

#### Next Steps:

- Ask each other to pray about the specific area highlighted in the sermon that needs most attention.
- Consider the needs of the NCC. Talk with your GC about opportunities for you to serve. Pray about those opportunities.

#### Supporting One Another:

- Specific Needs. Tell your Gospel Community about your concerns this week.
- Tell your GC about needs that others in the group may help with.
- Thanksgiving (recognizing how others in the group have helped you and loved you).

2 Corinthians 5:14–21

<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, **THEREFORE** all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, **THEREFORE**, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

<sup>17</sup> **THEREFORE, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.** [[God the initiator]] <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

<sup>19</sup> **THAT IS**, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> **THEREFORE**, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> **For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**