

## WHAT'S NEW ABOUT BEING NEW? 2 CORINTHIAN 5:17-20

V17) "Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come! V18) It is all from God. He brought us back to himself through Christ's death on the cross. And he has given us the task of bringing others back to him through Christ. v19) God was bringing the world back to himself through Christ. He did not hold people's sins against them. God has trusted us with the message that people may be brought back to him. V20) So we are Christ's official messengers. It is as if God were making his appeal through us. Here is what Christ wants us to beg you to do. Come back to God! (**The NIV, The Adventure Bible for Young Readers**)

Christians see the world in a new way when they are joined to Christ. What is new in being new? The Apostle Paul gave us at least three.

1. New creation brings new perspective. (v17) NEW PERSPECTIVE in; old perspective out (v17) – The use of the word "Therefore" is connected with the words in 2 Co 5:16, "We know Christ no more after the flesh" - old things.

We are changed. We see ourselves as kingdom builders; as spiritual fire starters. We work hard to start a Holy Spirit fire in someone's life.

Look at every person through the cross of Christ. Look at every human being alive as capable of starting a new life in God; a blessed life with the blessed Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. Before Paul's salvation experience, Paul would not have thought about the Corinthians much.

5:18 - "All this from God." the new creation (5:17) is exclusively God's work. Everything begins with God's initiative: Paul remarked that all this (the changes he had just described) was from God.

*Jesus said to his disciples, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God (become a new creation). (v25) It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the kingdom of God. And, so they said to each other. "Who then can be saved?" (v27) Jesus looked at them and said, "With man, this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Mark 10:17-27*

2. New creation ignites new passion. (v18) Paul's ministry was compelled by the display of Christ's love on the cross, the passion of the Christ! Now, we share his passion. Our new passion is no longer fueled by temporary things. Our new passion is to keep ourselves in the kingdom and to bring the world back to God through Christ!

3. New creation brings new purpose (v20). Paul identifies himself as an ambassador of Christ and so are we. Our purpose is to pave the way for others to accept the handshake of God made through the redemptive work of Jesus.

The cross is God's handshake by the Father on our behalf and for us. And ***our assignment is not to show others how good we are. Our assignment is to show others how good God is. It is official!***

***V20) So we are Christ's official messengers. It is as if God were making his appeal through us. Here is what Christ wants us to beg you to do. Come back to God! Make Him your Savior, Healer, and King.***

You say, "I am trying to be a good Christian." I say to you, outside of Christ, you are weak. But in Christ, you are strong. Give your life to Jesus, don't do it on your own. Let God the Holy Spirit, whom you have also received in Christ help you. No ifs and buts anymore. Make your new life in Christ exciting! No excuses for us anymore. What you do matters because it reflects who you belong.