



"A New Creation"

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

A new year is beginning and stands before us to walk through it. Its halls will be filled with new resolutions, new joys, new challenges, new obstacles, and likely even new failures and sorrows. Perhaps at the beginning of this New Year, it is good for us to remember one very important "new thing" in Scripture—the *new creation*.

Paul tells us that if anyone is in Christ, he is a *new creation*. He also tells us that the old things have passed away and that all things have become new. What is new or refreshing about being in Christ? Let us take a look at three aspects of this new creation.

A new slate. When we obey the gospel, our record of sin is washed away and our slate is made clean. Every sin has been forgiven and will not be laid against us in God's court. In his second epistle, Peter addressed the danger of a shortsighted and forgetful Christian, saying:

"For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins" (2 Pet. 1:9).

It is so important for the child of God to recognize and continue to remember that his debt of "old sins" has been paid for. He should never take for granted the grace which cleansed through the blood of the beloved Christ (1 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 1:5).

A new birth. One of the new things of being in Christ is that we are born again (Jn. 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:23). Thus, when we are baptized into Christ's death, we bury the *old man of sin* and begin life anew (Rom. 6:3, 4). Paul states,

"knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin" (Rom. 6:6).

Our "old sins" and "old man" have been done away with when we were baptized into Christ. Nothing can speak more of a new beginning than a *new birth*. This is how an old man can begin anew, and as the phrase would imply, it brings in other new things.

A new outlook. Christ died for our newness of life, and therefore our outlook should be toward Him. "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:15). One's selfish ambitions need to be replaced with "esteeming others better than himself" and the desire that "the will of the Lord be done" (Phil. 2:3, 4; Acts 21:4; Eph. 5:17). Worldly ambitions should be replaced with setting our minds on things above. What is your number one priority for this New Year? That is where your mind is set.

—Steven J. Wallace

