



1

Introduction

As we prepare to start a new year, many will make some new year's resolutions. There is nothing wrong with making resolutions. We need to take time to assess our lives and make appropriate course corrections.

This morning, I would like to take a different perspective. I would like to look at the change that Jesus is accomplishing in our lives.
He is making all things new.

2

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

3

A New Ledger

People often define themselves based upon their past. When you look at your past, what do you see?

It is easy to see our sin and failures. This remembrance shows us our need of a Savior. We are imperfect creatures who are unworthy to enter into the presence of a Perfect God.

Once a person is saved, our ledger is cleared. There is nothing able to separate us from God and His Love.

However, many people choose to live in the past with all its failures and regrets. God no longer sees believers this way. Christ has blotted out our sin. We have been pardoned. Christ has forgiven us. Many need to accept this and let their past go...

4

A New Ledger

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5

A New Relationship

Jesus restores our life. He restores us to a right relationship with him through the gift of forgiveness and justification through Jesus' sacrifice. This is the most important relationship that He makes new. Our sin is blotted out.

God not only restores our relationship with Him, but He is able to restore our earthly relationships. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the glue that builds and binds relationships together.

As a result of our restored relationship with the Father, our earthy relationships in Christ take on a new aspect. Since we will live forever in Heaven, these relationships become eternal.

Does your best friend know the saving power of Jesus?

6

A New Family

Not only is our relationship restored, we have been adopted into the Family of God.

Ephesians 1:3-5

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

7

A New Condition

God is in the process of restoring our lives back to His intent and purpose. He can even restore days and years that have been lost to the effects of sin (Joel 2:25). This is evidence of the extravagant nature of God's mercy. Not only can he renew a life and redeem the future, but he can also redeem its past.

In the New Testament, we see Jesus live a ministry of restoration. He restores sight to the blind, the ability to walk to the crippled, hearing to the deaf, and new clean skin to the leper (Mark 8:22-26; Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 7: 31-37; Luke 5:12-25). In all these accounts, Jesus didn't just heal a condition. He restored life, security, and hope to broken people.

What has God restored to you? Time? Relationships? What are hoping in Christ for in the new year?

8

A New Name

There is a village on the island of Anglesey, Wales , which has one of the longest names in the English language. It named

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch. No joke. (The short form is Llanfairpwllgwyngyll). The name means: “The Church of St. Mary in a hollow of white hazel, near to the rapid whirlpool, and to St. Tisilio Church, near to a red cave.”

9

A New Name

Names carried a lot of significance in Scripture. Throughout the Bible, people are introduced to us by name and by the meaning of their name. Eve was “the mother of all the living,” Isaac was “laughter,” and Samuel was “asked of God” (Genesis 3:20, 21:6; 1 Samuel 1:20).

10

A New Name

What's even more significant is the *renaming* of people in Scripture. When God gave someone a new name, it was always a sign of renewed purpose and a redeemed life. God changed Abram's name to Abraham to signify his promise to make him the father of many (Genesis 17:5). He changed the names of Hosea's children from No Mercy and Not My People to My Loved One and My People to symbolize his love for Israel and his plan to redeem her from idolatry (Hosea 1-2). Simon became Peter, and Saul became Paul when they became Jesus' disciples (Matthew 4:18; Acts 13:9). They received new identities in Christ as they forsook life in the flesh.

11

A New Name

Revelation 2:17

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

While we may not actually receive new names when we accepted Christ, we do receive new identities. God also address us by names like, Beloved, Brethren, Desired, and Christian

If you are in Christ, you have been given a new name, a new identity. Are you living according to your new name with renewed purpose and redemption?

12

A New Life and Power

God makes dead things alive again. Literally. He has power over death in every sense, and he demonstrated that to us when he raised Jesus from the grave. Scripture says that, as believers, we have that same power dwelling in us. It's what gives life to our dead souls (Romans 8:11).

I can get so easily discouraged when I think about all the times I've failed and given in to temptation, and it makes the idea of fighting this battle for another year of life seem overwhelming. But this truth, that I have the same power that raised Christ from the grave dwelling in me, gives me great hope. If I lay down my weak, flawed existence every day, I can trust that God will resurrect it with new life and new grace.

Do you trust in God's power to resurrect? Are you living in the truth that God can bring new life to your soul each day? Or are you living as one defeated by sin and shame?

13

A New Creation

This present physical creation is stained by sin and its effects. The most proven law in physics, the "2nd Law of Thermodynamics", proves this. Everything is running down. Everything is marked by death and decay.
It will not always be so.

Just as Jesus makes us a New Creation. He is going to restore Creation. He is not just going to fix it, He is going to fold this existence up like a garment and make a brand new one!

We will live with our God and Father in that New Creation for all eternity.!

Are you living for this creation, this existence which is passing away or are you storing your treasure in the New Creation?

14

Revelation 21:1-7

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

15

So What ...

As we begin this new year, Let us commit ourselves to hope in God's power to make things new. He restores lost time, bestows new identities, and creates new life. He offers renewed mercy to his own with each day. He promises good plans for his people, plans that include a hopeful future (Jeremiah 29:11).

So rather than seeing the start of another year as a daunting task to be met or an unknown to be feared, my prayer is that you can trust in God's sovereignty to make it new. There will be new blessings, new trials, new failures, and new victories, but his goodness will see you through!

16