



1

## Introduction

For many this time of year is a time for New Year Resolutions. Things you want to do different this year over last. There is nothing wrong with wanting to change one's life. I have found that working in my flesh and attempting to create Godly change, my resolutions last until mid-January.

2

## Introduction

The process of making resolutions is to look at the things you do not like in your life. There are some things in your life you cannot change. However, God gives His grace, and we must learn to be content.

3

## Introduction

For things that can change, arrange your priorities. What would God have you work on? Start small, if you bite off too much you will get overwhelmed and will give up. Put God first and the rest will fall into place.

4

## Introduction

One of the things you cannot change is the past. Each of us carry regret and disappointment. There are things that we would change if we could. Though we cannot change the past, we can change our relationship to it.

5

## 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.

6

# Qualifications

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.

Many people reject Christ using excuses like “I prayed to God once and He did not answer my prayer.” In all reality, God does not always answer my prayers the way I would like Him to. God is not some magic genie who is there to do our bidding. He is the Holy Creator God to whom we are all responsible.

Notice the **qualifier**, “**if anyone is in Christ**”. The promises are not for those who want to live their lives on their own terms. It is only for those who have restored their relationship through Jesus.

7

# Reconciled

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.

You must always put a verse in the context of the passage.

The context of 2 Corinthians 5:12-20 has to do with reconciliation through Jesus. Those who have acknowledged their sin and turn to Jesus for forgiveness have been reconciled to God.

**Our sin has been dealt with and we now have a restored relationship (reconciled) to God.**

8

# Forgiven

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.

We can allow ourselves to dwell in our past, with all its failures and disappointments. We live in a fallen world cursed with sin. We have all sinned and we have all experienced the sin of others. You do not need to live in the past. You have been forgiven. All your sin and failures have been nailed to the cross. The old things have passed away – they are gone! You do not have to live there.

9

# Forgiven

2 Corinthians 5:18

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Not only have we been reconciled, but we have been given the ministry of reconciliation.

- Just as God has forgiven us, we need to forgive those who have hurt us. This frees us from the past.
- Since we have experienced God's forgiveness, we need to tell others of God's Love and offer of salvation.

10

# A New Creation

Have you ever wondered what the New Creation will be like?

God, in Genesis, created a perfect Creation. All was in keeping with His nature, purpose and will. Then man sinned and man removed Himself from God and all creation was cursed. Sin, death, disease, pain, and suffering entered in. Man, cut off from God, attempted to find value and purpose in himself and a world that is falling apart. Man's heart was darkened, and his life, values, and purpose became futile and empty.

Jesus stepped into human history to redeem those who were willing to come to Him. This present world, however, is sentenced to destruction. It is contaminated by our sin.

God states that He is going to **fold this present universe up and put it away**  
(Hebrews 1:10-12).

God will then **create anew**. The future creation will be different from this one. However, it also will be perfect and free from sin. Everything, including us, will be in perfect harmony with God.

11

# A New Creation

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.

Now let's look back at our verse to understand the real impact of what this means to us personally. Like the old creation that is going to be folded up and remembered no more. Our failures, sin, and regret are also folded up and put away.

Just as God is going to create a new universe, we also are being made new. One day we will stand in that new creation totally free from sin, and we will be in perfect harmony with God. Death having been defeated, there will never be anything to separate us from Him or each other again.

12

# All Things New

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.

We have not seen the full reality of our New Creation, as we struggle with our dual nature. However, we need to recognize that we are in process. Our lives should be characterized by change.

## A NEW CITIZENSHIP

We have been adopted into God's family. We have been saved out of this world system and its judgment. We are citizens of Jesus' Kingdom.

We are in the world, but not of the world. We need to live what we believe. Our choices in life declare our heart. Let's not look back but keep our eyes forward.

13

# All Things New

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.

## A NEW NATURE

When we were born, we were not born innocent, but with a sin nature. It is not just our sin that cut us off from God, but our very nature of who and what we were. When we accepted Jesus as our Messiah and Savior, we were given a New Nature. The Holy Spirit indwelt our lives and is transforming us from the inside out. In this present moment of our existence, we find ourselves in an intense struggle for the two natures war within us. However, that old nature, this body of death is passing away and soon will be no more.

14

# All Things New

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.

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

We were born into a world system. We learned to trust what we could see and touch. We lived for the things of this world and were indoctrinated with its values and perspectives. We now know that this world is passing away. The physical things that are accumulated in this life will be left behind. We now have a new perspective. We can live for and build up our treasures in heaven. The things of real eternal worth are not the material things of this world, but the souls of those we share this world with.

15

# All Things New

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.

## A NEW MISSION

What are you living for? I have discovered that people without Jesus tend to live their lives focused on themselves. They use this world's resources and other people and relationships in order to meet the needs of their own lives.

We have a new mission: we are to be living sacrifices. We recognize that the world does not rotate around any individual, but around Christ. We have experienced His love, grace, and forgiveness. Our new mission is to take that message and share it with the world!

16

## So What ...

So lets go back to those New Year Resolutions.

Let's make a resolution to see life from God's perspective.

Let's commit ourselves to a deeper relationship with Him this coming year.

Let's commit ourselves to spending more time in His Word to understand His precepts and ask for wisdom to apply it to life.

Let's commit ourselves to understanding that this world is passing away and to invest ourselves in that which is new.

Jim Elliot stated, "He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he can never lose."