



Living as a New Creation!

Here we are again! It seems like it was just yesterday that we were celebrating the end of the past year and making New Year's resolutions for a brand-new year. Again, New Year's resolutions having been made and a new year has dawned leaving us to pray for a different type of year this new year or a year filled with many of those blessings you may have experienced in 2017. Whatever the case, a new year brings with it uncertainties and questions about how the new year will proceed.

With the onset of this New Year one needs to seek out the wisdom of God's Word to understand who they are in Christ Jesus. We worshipped, glorified, and celebrated the incarnation of Christ coming down from heaven and entering into humanity in order to save us. Anticipation is the word we use when waiting for the birth of Christ as we share in the good news of Jesus' birth: it comes and goes. The anticipation builds to a roaring crescendo upon Christmas but quickly seems to fade as the New Year approaches and our lives are relegated back to the same status quo.

It seems that we just go through the motions of making New Year's resolutions, fail in keeping them for a brief period of time and venture back into our normal activities of life. This becomes the question for Christians and the apostle Paul has a few things to say to us from God's Word that should keep our heart focused on.

We look at our lives sometimes as boring and doing the same thing over and over again every day, but the apostle Paul wants us to reflect on the difference that comes in Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul speaks of who we are in Christ. You are not this boring, doing the same thing over and over every day person that you see. Instead, Paul tells you that being a Christian brings excitement, joy, and heartache. Yes, heartache because you long for others to know the love of the Christ-child Jesus. Paul says;

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might not live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised...Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God.”

You see your life isn't boring and mundane if Christ lives in you. A new creature exists because of what God has done through His Son, Jesus Christ and as He has given the Holy Spirit to you.

Even though Christmas comes and goes and the exuberance, joy, gathering together as family and friends, and so many other feelings and emotions are shared during the holidays, it does not mean lives return to the boring and mundane. It means you should carry a joy of knowing you are a new creation because of the love God has for you. Living as a Christian should help you to see there is something exciting about your life.

Don't let the letdown of the holidays or the unkept resolutions get you down as you begin a New Year, hear these beautiful words from God that you are a new creation and there are so many exciting things God has in store for you if you allow God to use you in this way. Do not think that God cannot use you in amazing ways or you don't have any gifts God can use. By thinking in this way, you reflect on the boring and mundane when God is exciting, faithful, trustworthy, and loving. He has created you and continues to make you a new creation to enjoy the fellowship ***“HE”*** so desires to have with you.

May God's blessings flow to you in this New Year and may you know the excitement and joy of being a New Creation in Christ Jesus.

In Christ's Service and Love,

Pastor Rich