

"A NEW CREATION"

INTRODUCTION

1. According to **2 Corinthians 5:17**, a great change takes place in the life of one who is a Christian: **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**
2. But what does this change mean?
 - a. What position does this "**new creation**" hold in the eyes of God?
 - b. What type of life is he or she to lead?
 - c. How does this change affect his or her relationship to things pertaining to one's old way of life?

[In Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, we find the answers to such questions. Note first of all that a Christian is described as...]

I. SITTING WITH CHRIST IN HEAVENLY PLACES - Ephesians 2:6

A. **OUR FORMER CONDITION...**

1. We were dead in sin - **Ephesians 2:1**
2. We were quite active, walking and following after:
 - a. The world
 - b. Satan
 - c. The flesh - cf. **Ephesians 2:2-3**

B. **OUR CURRENT CONDITION...**

1. Out of love, mercy, and grace, we who were dead are now alive!
- **Ephesians 2:4-5; cf. Ro 5:6-8**
2. Now we are blessed to be:
 - a. Raised with Christ - **Ephesians 2:6a**; look at **Colossians 2:12; 3:1**
 - b. Seated with Him in "**heavenly places**" - **Ephesians 2:6**
3. Definition of "**heavenly places**"
 - a. Lit., "**the heavenlies**", found only in Ephesians - **Ephesians 1:3,20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12**
 - b. Various explanations often given: the church, heaven proper, the spiritual realm
 1. The church is ruled out by **Ephesians 3:10**
 2. Heaven proper is ruled out by **Ephesians 6:12**

- c. Most likely refers to the **"spiritual realm"** as contrasted to the physical realm
 - 1. In the spiritual realm, we enjoy blessings in Christ - **Ephesians 1:3**
 - 2. In the spiritual realm, Christ rules at God's right hand - **Ephesians 1:20**
 - 3. In the spiritual realm, we sit with Christ - **Ephesians 2:6**
 - 4. In the spiritual realm, principalities and powers learn of God's wisdom by the church - **Ephesians 3:10**
 - 5. In the spiritual realm, we wrestle against spiritual wickedness - **Ephesians 6:12**
- 4. Compare our position with Christ in the **"heavenly places"**
 - a. Christ is seated at God's right hand - **Ephesians 1:20**
 - b. We are seated together with Christ! - **Ephesians 2:6**
- 5. Our position with Christ certainly warrants a proper frame of mind - **Colossians 3:1-2**
 - a. We are to seek those things above
 - b. We are to set our minds on thing above

[As **"A New Creation,"** sitting with Christ in heavenly places ought to affect the way we think. But also, the way we behave, for as "A New Creation" we are to be...]

II. WALKING IN MANNER WORTHY OF OUR CALLING - **Ephesians 4:1**

A. **THE PURPOSE OF OUR CALLING...**

- 1. To be holy and without blame – look at **Ephesians 1:3-4**
- 2. To be His beloved children through adoption – look at **Ephesians 1:5**

B. **A WALK WORTHY OF OUR CALLING...**

- 1. Is one in which we **"walk in love"** - **Ephesians 5:1-2**
 - a. As beloved children, imitating their Father
 - b. Following Christ's own example of sacrifice
- 2. Is one in which we **"walk as light"** - **Ephesians 5:3-14**
 - a. Living lives holy and without blame
 - b. As light exposing the deeds of darkness by way of contrast
- 3. Is one in which we **"walk as wise"** – **Ephesians 5:15-17**
 - a. Understanding that time is short
 - b. Understanding the will of the Lord

[Walking in **"love"**, as **"light"**, as **"wise"**, will not be without controversy in the midst of a dark, perverted world (also **2Timothy 3:12**). And so **"A New Creation"** is to be...]

III. **STANDING FIRM IN BATTLE - Ephesians 6:13**

A. **THE NATURE OF OUR BATTLE...**

1. We are engaged in a spiritual warfare - **Ephesians 6:12**
 - a. The battle is taking place in **"heavenly places"** (the spiritual realm)
 - b. Our foe: the very things we had previously followed -
cf. **Ephesians 2:2-3**
2. Thus, the need to be strong - **Ephesians 6:10**
 - a. To be strong in the Lord
 - b. To be strong in the power of His might

B. **THE NATURE OF OUR ARMOR...**

1. We are given the armor of God, which we must put on - **Ephesians 6:11, 13**
2. This armor is adequate for a strong offensive battle - **Ephesians 6:14-18**
 - a. Waist girded with truth
 - b. Breastplate of righteousness
 - c. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
 - d. Shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one
 - e. Helmet of salvation
 - f. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God
 - g. Praying always with all prayer and supplication

-- Note the lack of protection from behind; this implies that we must be committed in standing firm against the enemy, and that to retreat insures defeat!

CONCLUSION

1. When a person becomes **"A New Creation"**, it affects how he or she sits, stands, and walks...
 - a. **Sitting** with Christ in heavenly places
 - b. **Walking** in a manner worthy of our calling
 - c. **Standing** firm in battle
2. Compare this to the wicked person who is not blessed by God as described in **Psalms 1:1-2...**

- a. **Walking** in the counsel of the wicked
- b. **Standing** in the path of sinners
- c. **Sitting** in the seat of scoffers

What a remarkable contrast! Truly **"old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."** Has this proved true in our lives?

Give careful thought to how and where you are sitting, walking, and standing, if you desire to be **"A New Creation"** in Christ!

November 28, 2021

Morning Service.