

A New Creature
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 a very important subject is mentioned -- "being a new creature."
2. Being a new creature is a very special blessing from God in that "*old things are passed away,*" and "*all things are become new.*"
3. Today seems to be an especially good time to study this subject because the old year (2016) has passed and a New Year (2017) has begun.
4. The first point we need to consider is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. BEING A NEW CREATURE IS VERY IMPORTANT (Galatians 6:15)
 - A. Under the Law of Moses circumcision was very important.
 1. The Israelites practiced circumcision -- it showed that they were God's chosen people.
 2. The Gentiles did not practice circumcision -- their failure to practice it showed that they were not God's chosen people.
 - B. Under the Law of Christ:
 1. whether a person is circumcised no longer matters
 2. being a new creature is what really matters
 3. both Jews and Gentiles can become new creatures.
 - C. Let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. THREE PRINCIPLES REVEALED IN 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 THAT RELATE TO BEING A NEW CREATURE
 - A. First, those who are in Christ have become new creatures.
 1. This is explained in more detail in Romans 6:3-4.
 - a. We get into Christ when we are baptized into Him.
 - b. When we are raised from baptism we are able to "*walk in newness of life.*"
 2. Additional information is presented in Galatians 3:27-29.
 - B. Second, "*old things are passed away*" for those who have become new creatures.
 1. When we become new creatures by being baptized into Christ, God forgives our old sinful ways (Colossians 2:12-13).
 2. As new creatures we are to leave "old things" in the past (Colossians 3:5-11).
 3. This is an ongoing process (Ephesians 4:21-31).
 - C. Third, "*all things are become new*" for new creatures.
 1. When we become new creatures by being baptized into Christ:
 - a. we experience the new birth (John 3:5)
 - b. we are created unto good works (Ephesians 2:10).
 2. As new creatures we are to pursue those activities and qualities that please God.
 - a. Ephesians 4:32
 - b. Colossians 3:12-15
 3. This is an ongoing process (Colossians 3:1-4; 1 John 1:7).

Conclusion:

1. If you have not become a new creature now is an excellent time to be baptized into Christ.
2. Let us remember that new creatures are responsible for:
 - a. abstaining from old things that displease God
 - b. pursuing new things that please God.