

Week 6 - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Last week we talked about how Jesus died in order to “bring us to God.” The devotions all season led up to that point and we have seen the climax. All of us have disobeyed our Creator, being rebellious and sinful, dooming ourselves to the punishment of death. There is nothing that we can do to earn any different sentence because we are incapable of getting rid of our sin. But in God’s mercy, Jesus came to take our punishment on himself, dying for the unrighteous so that he might “bring us to God.” We were dead in our sins, but Jesus can make us alive.

Jesus taught about this very thing even before his crucifixion. In one of the most famous passages in the Bible, John 3 is all about Jesus teaching about the need to be born again. We are all sinful and entirely corrupt and that does not just go away. We must be made new.

The verse this week that we will talk about is 2 Corinthians 5:17. It says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” The Bible is very clear about the solution to our sin problem: we must be made new.

That is why the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is so important for us. We didn’t just need a Savior who could take the penalty of our sins (although he certainly did that), we also needed our Savior to be able to defeat death and give new life. Jesus declared his power over death when he was resurrected and came back to life. He has the ability to give us life, and *that* life lasts forever.

Jesus has already paid the price; he has already won the battle. The punishment for our sins has been paid and the opportunity of new life awaits. But just because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead 2000 years ago, that doesn’t mean that all of us are automatically forgiven and have a right relationship with God. There is still a need for us to respond.

Just think about 2 Corinthians 5:17; the verse says that only those “in Christ” are made new creations. What does that mean? How can someone be in Christ?

Being “in Christ” means that we give up our own identity and become united with Christ. Instead of being judged for what we have done, we are instead given Jesus’ righteousness accounted to us. Being “in Christ” means that we are not trying to work for our own salvation. No, we rely on what Jesus has already done and trust his promise to forgive us and restore our relationship with God. This only happens when we fully trust Christ instead of ourselves.

Jesus was the Creator in the beginning; he made everything and it was good. Jesus is still the Creator today and he wants to make us new. He has already paid the price and won our lives. We need to trust in him alone that he died for our sins and he alone can give us new life. Trust in him today and experience the new life that he offers!

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it important that we “must be born again”?
- How do we know that Jesus has the power to give new life?
- How can we receive new life that lasts forever?