

# NEW, ALL NEW, BRAND NEW!



**TEXT:** **2 Corinthians 5:16-19** *Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

**INTRO.:** A. The backslidden wise man declared in Ecclesiastes *"there is no new thing under the sun."* He stated that *"the thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done."* But he was shortsighted. He didn't see what Christ would accomplish on Calvary! As a result of His work on the cross, many **new** things became a reality.

**ILLUS.:** Walk the aisles of any supermarket, scan the advertisements in any Sunday paper, check out the claims of the commercials on TV, and you will see that mankind has a desire for something new and the producers of products exploit that. We also have NEWS papers, NEWS magazines, NEWS radio stations, the morning, afternoon and nightly NEWS; label after label, announcer after announcer and ad after ad touts some **"NEW, ALL NEW, BRAND NEW!"** item event, program or Bible! We are like the Athenians of Paul's day who *"spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some NEW thing!"*

B. This chapter in 2 Corinthians is filled with **"new"** things. We are promised a *new home*, we have a *new hope*, we have a *new ministry*, a *new relationship* with Christ, and we have become *new creatures*, with *new things* replacing the old in our lives. And this is not just advertising hype, but spiritual reality. We will be looking at some of these new things tonight.

**TRANS.:** Last time we examined our **motivations for ministry** and found them to be rewards, fear and love; based on *the "the Judgment Seat of Christ," in v.10 "the terror of the Lord," in v.11 and "the love of Christ" in v.14a.* Today we will examine the **"NEW, ALL NEW, BRAND NEW!"** things which make our ministry possible...

## **I. A NEW RELATION: v.16**

### A. A Revised Vision of Mankind:

1. The "new man" or the **"new creature"** in Christ no longer sees men as friends or enemies, customers or co-workers, but as souls for whom Christ died.
2. In Paul's case he no longer saw Gentiles and Christians as enemies, but as possible converts to the Savior; Paul previously had information about Christ, but this was not the same as believing in Him; mere information cannot transform a person from self-centeredness to selflessness. V.15

**ILLUS.:** For Paul it meant that he was no longer out to impress people (as he was used to doing as a Pharisee) [cf. **Phil. 3:4-8**] Nor was he any longer impressed by position, status, or men's rank.

### **Galatians 1:15-16**

**But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me...**

### **Galatians 2:11**

**But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.**

### B. A Revised Vision of Messiah:

1. Paul's concept of the Messiah as a great Prince or King, a leader or warrior who would deliver Israel from the bondage of Rome underwent a drastic revision.
  - a. The normal Jewish image of the Messiah was just this and resulted in disappointed expectations when Jesus arrived not in a palace or on a white horse wielding a sword, but in a stable and as a mere baby.
  - b. Even his own brethren in the flesh and the Apostles had problems with this – even during His miraculous ministry on earth and after His resurrection.

**John 7:5** For neither did his brethren believe in him.

**Mark 10:37-38** They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

**Acts 1:6** When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

2. Paul (& we) have the advantage over the Apostles who knew Jesus "*after the flesh*" in that, His flesh doesn't get in our way or distort our understanding of Who He is.

**QUOTE:** Wiersbe: "*the facts about the earthly of Jesus are important, because the Christian message is grounded in history. But we must interpret the manger by the throne. We do not worship a Babe in a manger; we worship a glorified Savior on the throne.*"

## II. A NEW CREATION: v.17

### A. Not Our Lifestyle, But Our Life:

**ILLUS.:** The focus in this verse is not on our lifestyle as much as on our new life in Christ. We often make the application of a change in lifestyle as the primary focus. It is true that if we have a new life, we will adopt a new lifestyle, but the verse deals primarily with our being in Christ and what takes place at the new birth, not on the results of that new life.

1. It is by birth, not by growth, that we are a new creature.
2. It is instantaneous, not progressive.
3. The emphasis is on the internal, not the external.

### B. Not Our Habits, But Our Habitat:

1. Our "*habitat*" is where we live moment by moment; as the songwriter put it: "*thanks to Calvary, we don't live here anymore...*" - we have changed addresses.
  - a. Our former address was earthly; our new address is heavenly.
  - b. Our former address was carnality; our new address is spiritual.
2. Our habits are what we do; the focus is on the new person, not just new practices.

## III. A NEW RECONCILIATION: v.18,19

### A. The Ministry of Reconciliation: v.18

1. We can only have this ministry because we have experienced reconciliation ourselves.

**ILLUS.:** The concept of reconciliation means that we have experienced a dramatic change, literally "*to change thoroughly*" ("**new creature**"). Someone has defined it as "*a radical change between 2 parties formerly at enmity.*" Before salvation we are at enmity with God i.e., we had declared war on Him; now we have been reconciled and are at peace with Him.

2. Our ministry of reconciliation is to enable as many as possible to be reconciled as well; this means soul-winning! Cf. also Gal.6:1

### B. The Word of Reconciliation: v.19

1. Thru Christ God was busy initiating a "cease fire" between Himself and His creatures.
2. At the Cross the "cease fire" was announced: "**It is finished!**"
  - a. The concept of reconciliation is based on imputation.
  - b. Imputation is an accounting concept; it is placing something on someone's account.

**ILLUS.:** The classic biblical illustration is that of Paul writing to Philemon to accept the runaway slave Onesimus and saying "**If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account.**" He is simply saying "*I will pay the bill*" so you can be reconciled. Christ paid our bill so we can be reconciled! **Because of Calvary the record has been expunged – the debt is paid.**

**CONCL.:** "**NEW, ALL NEW, BRAND NEW**" - that is the status of every believer. We have a NEW RELATION, we are A NEW CREATION, and have a NEW RECONCILIATION ministry.

