

A New Creation for a New Year

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

As a New Year begins once again many people will be looking for new things to take place in their lives. Some will be trying to lose those extra unwanted pounds, while others are committed to starting some new job, or beginning a new course of action in their lives. But in the midst of all these New Year's resolutions and changes we should remember what the Bible says about change. What is the most important change that any person could experience this New Year? According the Bible it is the change that the new birth brings into our lives.

Second Corinthians 5:17 says: "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature (creation): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The most wonderful *new thing* that we could experience this year is to become a "new creature" or creation in Christ. This means that God gives us new spiritual life and a new way of living when He comes to dwell within our hearts through Jesus Christ. The new creation concept speaks of the new spiritual birth that every person can experience when they place faith in Jesus Christ to be their Savior. Jesus talked about this spiritual rebirth. "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

To be born again means that you receive the very life of God within your own human spirit. In other words, you are reborn spiritually on the inside, which results in receiving eternal life and a new way of life, possessing new goals, spiritual desires, and a new value system. God works on the inside before he gets to the outside!

The old creation associated with our past lives was spiritual death and living for self. It was a time when our spirit was separated from God and headed toward eternal judgment in hell. Romans 6:23 says: “For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” The good news is this; when we become a new creation in Christ, we receive God’s own life and our spirit is no longer spiritually dead and separated from God. Ephesians 2:1 declares: “And you *hath he quickened* (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins.”

The results of this new life are marvelous. We become a brand new creation. This means we become a person that now possesses God’s life and it’s a life of quantity (everlasting life – John 3:16) but also a life of quality (“life more abundantly” – John 10:10). Dear friend, becoming a new creation is the most important thing that you could experience in this New Year.

When we become this new creation the Bible says “old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). This is speaking of a change from our old position under sin’s power to a new position in Christ. Our previous position of separation from God with its old values, priorities, beliefs, plans and desires is taken out of the way and “in Christ” (our spiritual union with Him) we possess a new way of life that includes newfound joy, peace, inward satisfaction, new goals and priorities, holy desires, and a new philosophy for living, which flows forth from Christ’s life within. It is this new life that we must yield to and experience within our daily lives as Christians, so we might live victoriously and differently (Romans 6:12-14).

What is the most important thing that you could receive this New Year? It is to become a new creation in Christ. This can only happen when you understand that Jesus Christ died on the cross in your place and rose again to provide you with this new life and creation (1 Cor. 15:3-4). After understanding this Gospel message, you need to place faith in Jesus Christ, so you can receive the spiritual benefits of His sacrifice, which include everlasting life and a new way of life. Jesus said in John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Belief or faith in Christ involves a personal transfer of your trust in Christ's death and resurrection to give you everlasting life and the "new creation" life that Jesus promised.

What do you want for this New Year? Do you want a new car, a new TV, a new job position at work, or a new life? The choice is yours to make as a New Year has once again begun. Among all the choices, becoming a new creation in Christ is the most important one. This choice will affect you not only in the New Year but also for eternity.