

New Creatures - Cont.

ness of life serving the Lord and doing his good works (John 4:24,35; Acts 2:42; Romans 6:3-4; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5; 3:18). We have a new set of thoughts that follow the words of the Holy Spirit, not our own fleshly desires (Romans 8:5ff; Philippians 4:8). We also have a new set of words (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6). We have a new set of promises including answered prayer and God's divine protection (Hebrews 4:16; 13:5-6). And, we walk by a new rule of faith and practice - the law of Christ (1 Corinthians 9:22; Colossians 3:17; Hebrews 8:8; 1 Peter 4:11).

We Must Keep the New, New

In closing, let me say again how important it is to be a "new creature" in Christ? And we must continue to be a faithful Christian. Do Christians work to keep new things, new? I hope so. The "old man" of sin can come back if we are not careful (1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 4:22ff; Colossian 3:5ff). As Christians, we must all make the effort to be a "new creature" each day. Let us avoid what is the "old" and comfortable way of life. Let us keep "renewing" the mind (Romans 12:2) by reading and obey God's word each day. - *Chris Reeves*

- Scripture of the Week -

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus to you-ward."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 -

There are some things in life best done all the time. This week I will rejoice over something, pray over something, and give thanks for something every day.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

August 18, 2024



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

New Creatures in Christ

Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 -

For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature
- Galatians 5:17 -

and put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.
- Ephesians 4:24 -

and have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him
- Colossians 3:10 -

Most people today that I know like things that are new - a new car, a new house, a new job, etc. Why is that? People like new things because the quality of that thing is new and the relationship with that thing is new. "New" typically means that something is in its best condition. It has not had time to wear down or wear out. So, we all like "new" things.

One very important principle that people today need to learn is that they need to become a "new creature" in

Christ. They need to be baptized into Christ and continue living faithfully each day for him and be a "new" person. New cars, houses, jobs, etc., are great. But being a "new creature" in Christ is even greater!

How does a person become a "new creature" in Christ? A person starts his new beginning when he is born again - born of water (baptism) and Spirit (the words of the Holy Spirit) - (John 3:5). He is then made a "new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15) and a "new man" (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10).

New Creatures in Christ

What are some new things that a person has when he or she becomes a Christian by being baptized into Christ? Well, let's consider the following from God's word:

- **We have a new position... "if any man is be in Christ..."**

Being in Christ through baptism gives us a new position in life. We have a new fellowship with Christ that we did not have before (Romans 5:10; 1 John 1:3ff). We have a new family of Christians that we did not have before (Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 2:15; Titus 2:14). And we have a new home and hope of heaven that we did

not have before (2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 1:2; 1 Peter 1:4; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-5).

- **We have a new character... "he is a new creature..."**

Being in Christ means that we have a new character that is not ruled by sin. We have been begotten again by God's word (James 1:18). Now, we have a new purpose in life to live for Christ and not for self, or the world (1 Corinthians 6:20; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:7-14; 1 Thessalonians 1:10). We have a new outlook, attitude, value, and aim in life. We live to promote God's kingdom, not the world (Matthew 6:19,33; 10:37; Colossians 3:1; James 4:13-15; 1 John 2:15). And we wear the new and honorable name "Christian" which brings glory to God (Acts 11:26; James 2:7; 1 Pet. 4:17; Revelation 2:17; 3:12).

- **We have a new life... "the old things are passed away..."**

Being in Christ means that we have a new life to live and it is not the old life and sin and worldliness. As a new Christian, we have a new set of practices and responsibilities. We are raised from baptism to walk in new-