

## New Beginnings

We're about to start a new year and we've spent the last few weeks focusing on Christ coming, His arrival, who He is, and how we know. So now what? How does this affect me? How does my life look as a follower of Christ in the new year? How does it look compared to the old year, or the old me? Here's what the apostle Paul had to say about that:

**2 Corinthians 5:16-17 - So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

With Christ in our lives we are a new creation. The old is gone and the new has come. Can you imagine waking up January 1 and being a completely new creation? A new person who is full of the Holy Spirit and walking in God's light. Can you imagine being forgiven of all the wrongs you have done and being able to forgive all the bad things that have happened to you? This is life in Christ. And it's not something you can only experience once a year or once in a lifetime when you are baptized. This newness is something that is yours to experience every day, every hour, every minute.

You see, in Christ we have a new covenant between us and God. It's a new contract God has made to allow us to be clean in His sight and allow us to have eternal life with him. It works like this:

**2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

Christ was the necessary sacrifice for us to become the righteousness of God and to live out that righteousness through the Holy Spirit and Christ's teachings. That is what the new year should look like. Each one of us, as followers of Christ, as servants to the almighty, God showing His Love to each other and every person we meet. Our servant hood and dedication to Him should be something we renew not just in the new year through a resolution but instead it should be renewed every day and every moment as we think of His forgiveness washing over us every day and every moment.

But we are a forgetful people. Perhaps that's why celebrations like Christmas, New Years, Easter, etc are necessary and even helpful. These times cause us to think about Christ, about a new life, about change. Perhaps that's why when Christ took the bread and the cup he said to do this in remembrance of Him. God knows us all too well, doesn't He?

As we take the bread and cup now. As we commune with Christ and come together as the body of Christ, I would like you to try to hold on to this memory. Hold on to His sacrifice, His love for us, the forgiveness of our sins, His spirit in us and among us that unites us. Hold on to these things as you enter the new year and let these things renew in you every day of this new year.