A New Creation

Intro: 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Notice the background to this verse.

1. The apostle has been dealing with one of his favorite themes: the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
   a. He had been arguing as he so often times did that Christ’s death on the cross was not an end in itself.
   b. Rather, it was a necessary step to His resurrection and a new, glorified life.
   c. The conclusion: as Christ died and was raised so also must we die in order to be raised.

2. Rom. 6:1-7 “1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

3. Col. 3:1 “1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”

4. 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

I. “IN CHRIST”

A. A phrase used to express an approved, acceptable relationship to God.
   1. It is used more often by Paul than all other inspired writers.
   2. It is often called the monogram of Paul since he uses it no less than 132 times.
   3. It is also used by other inspired writers.

B. Some examples of Paul’s use of this expression.
   1. Rom. 8:1 “1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
   2. 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
   3. Gal. 3:26 “26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
   4. Eph. 1:7 “7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
   5. Col. 1:14 “14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins;”
   6. 2 Tim. 2:10 “10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
   7. Eph. 1:3 “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”

C. How does one get into Christ?
   1. Rom. 6:3-6 “3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”
2. Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

3. Notice what all is included in scriptural baptism.

D. Notice some spiritual comparisons.

1. In Christ there is no condemnation
   a. Rom. 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."
   b. 1 Pet. 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"
      (1) When one has a good conscience toward God he has no condemnation before God.
      (2) Only by having no condemnation before God can one have a good conscience toward God.
      (3) Baptism puts one into Christ were there is no condemnation.

2. In Christ we are a new creature.
   a. 2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
   b. Rom. 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

3. In Christ we are children of God.
   a. Gal. 3:26 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."
   b. Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
      (1) “For” is translated from 2 Greek words.
         (a) εἰς (eis) which means “unto” or “in order to”
            (i) Mat. 26:28 “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
            (ii) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
         (b) γὰρ (gar) which means “here is the reason.”
      (2) γὰρ (gar) is used here showing here is how one becomes a child of God.

4. In Christ we have redemption and forgiveness of sins.
   a. Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
   b. Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
   c. It is applied in baptism:
      (1) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
      (2) Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

5. In Christ we have salvation
   a. 2 Tim. 2:10 “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
   b. It is applied in baptism:
c. 1 Pet. 3:21 “21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

d. Mark. 16:16 “16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

6. In Christ we have all spiritual blessings in the church.
a. Eph. 1:3 “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”
b. In the heavenly places refers to the church.
   (1) The book of Ephesians Paul uses this phrase to speak of the church.
   (2) In Heb. 8-9 Paul shows that the heavenly places is not only the heaven but also the church.
   (3) The church is the fulness of Christ; Eph. 1:22-23 “22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   (4) How do we get into the church? 1 Cor. 12:13 “13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

II. “HE IS A NEW CREATION”

A. How is this new creation made known?
   1. “Old things are passed away”
   2. “All things have become new.” (cf. Rom. 6:6 “6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”)

B. There is more to being a Christian than simply getting into Christ, one must also be a “new creature;” a “new creation.”

III. GOD IS NEW.

A. How does the world look upon God?
   1. As an omnipotent Creator.
      a. Gen. 1:1 “1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
      b. Acts 17:24 “24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;”
      c. 2 Cor. 5:18 “18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”
   2. As a Judge.
      a. Heb. 12:23 “23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,“
      b. Rom. 2:16 “16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”
      c. Acts 17:31 “31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

B. The one in Christ see Him as all this, but more.
   1. As a Father in heaven.
      a. Mat. 6:9 “9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
b. 1 Pet. 1:17 “17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.” This denotes the way in which He judges: as a Father.

2. Thus, one who cares, protects and providentially oversees our lives.
   a. Mat. 7:11 “11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
   b. Rom. 8:28 “28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
   c. 1 Pet. 5:7 “7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

IV. CHRIST IS NEW.

A. How does the world see Christ?
   1. Historically: He lived and died.
   2. As the Son of God.
      a. John 20:30-31 “30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
      b. Matt. 1:23 “23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
      c. 1 Tim. 3:16 “16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

B. But, the one in Christ sees Him anew.
   1. As the only way to God; John 14:6 “6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
   2. As the only mediator; 1 Tim. 2:5 “5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”
   3. As the only Savior; cf. “Jesus” Mat. 1:21 “21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
   4. But more, as a personal Savior and an elder brother in God’s family.
      a. Gal. 2:20 “20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
      b. Rom. 8:17 “17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”
      c. Mark 3:34-35 “34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.”

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NEW.

A. Gal. 4:6 “6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”

B. 2 Cor. 1:22 “22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”

C. Eph. 1:13-14 “13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”
VI. THE UNIVERSE IS NEW.
   A. Isa. 65-66
      1. Rev. 21:1 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”
      2. Does not mean that a new heaven and earth literally have been formed.
      3. We still walk under the same sky and the same stars still traverse the heavens.
   B. But, the universe is seen as it has never been seen before.
      1. Ps. 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
      2. From the dainty beautiful flower to the lofty majestic mountain peaks the handiwork of God is ever seen.

VII. LIFE ITSELF IS NEW.
   A. What does the average man seeks after in life?
      1. Eat, drink and be merry, seek money, prestige, power, etc.
         a. Luke 12:19 “And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.”
         b. 1 Cor. 15:32 “If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.”
      2. Matt. 6:31-32 “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”
   B. This is not the case with the new creature.
      1. He looks beyond this life to a greater life.
      2. He loses his life that he might find it. Mat. 16:24-25 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”

VIII. RELIGIOUS LIFE IS NEW.
   A. 1 John 5:3 “This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
   B. His affections are placed upon heaven.
      1. Col. 3:1 “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”
      2. This is where our treasure is: Mat. 6:20 “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”
      3. This is where our citizenship is:
         a. Phil. 3:20 “For our conversation [citizenship—ASV] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”
         b. We are strangers and pilgrims on this earth; 1 Pet. 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul:”
   C. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
IX. MAN IS NEW.
   A. Not just another person among multitudes.
   B. A soul, made in the image of God, Gen. 1:27
      “27 So God created man in his own image, in the
      image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”
   C. He is to be:
      1. served.
      2. saved.
      3. loved.

X. DEATH IS NEW.
   A. 1 Cor. 15:55-57
      “55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin;
      and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus
      Christ.”
   B. 2 Cor. 5:1-2
      “1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building
      of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be
      clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:”
   C. Phi. 1:23
      “23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far
      better:”

Conclusion: Yes, even the judgment is new. No longer a curse of rejection but a blessing of approval
to everlasting life in heaven.