

Intro.

- A. When time was just beginning, God created...., making man in “*our image, after our likeness*, **Gn. 1:26**
1. Even though God made man & woman *very good*, as creatures with reasoning ability & choice, they would eventually become separated from God because of sins they would committ, & be in need of a scheme of redemption, a plan of rescue for salvation. (**Hab. 1:13**;))
 2. The very reason for the Scheme of Redemption was so that men could become a *new creation*, even after we sin. That is precisely why the gospel is called *the Good News!!!*
- B. If we could announce all cessation of war on earth it would be marvelous.
1. If could remove all sickness..... or If we could eliminate all sin or even....death!
 2. Just think how quickly that news would spread, & the celebration that would take place.
 3. A more important announcement that truly needs to be made: *We can become a new creation of God!*

Discuss.**I. IF ANY MAN IS IN CHRIST ----- HE IS A NEW CREATION.**

- A. What makes people anywhere you go different?
1. Color? .2. Language? .3. Social Position? .4. Custom .5. Dress?
 6. Occupation? .7. Education? .8. Geographic location (distance)?
- B. The *Gtest. Diff.* is found in whether one is ***IN CHRIST*** or not!
1. Who is *in Christ* ? (c. **Jn. 1:29**)
 3. **Eph. 3:6** – *fellow heirs, partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel*
 3. **Gal. 3:26f** -- sons of God by *faith in Christ...hav[ing] been baptized into Christ...*
- C. Being in Christ makes all the difference there is!!!
1. **Heb. 5:9** Christ is the author of eternal salvation to all those who *obey Him*
 - a. **Rom. 3:24**, redemption is in Christ
 - b. **Rom. 8:39**, love of God is in Christ
 - c. **2 Cor. 5:19**, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself
 2. Only in Christ can you or I become a *new creature!*
 - a. **Rom. 6:3-4**, a new life is the result of having been *born again* (**Jn. 3:5**)
 - b. The diff. Christ can make in your life is described in detail in **Eph. 2:11-18**

II. THE OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY.

- A. If look in **Eph. 4:17-24** see that the *old man of sin* is to have been done away with by those *in Christ*
1. Good commentary re: *old man put away* is found in **Rom. 6:6f.**
 2. It seems obvious that the old manner of life is to be left, abandoned, for evermore, **Col.. 3:5-10**
 3. Further evidence of the expected transition is recorded in **1 Pet. 4:1-5.**
- B. The old desires, ambitions & sins are to be a thing of the past.
1. **1 John 2:15-17** state.
 2. The early vss. of Eph. 2 (1-6) describe a vast diff. in a person spiritually *alive in Christ* & our previous\
- C. Along w/ our brethren in Gal., we learn what is expected of those who have been crucified w/ Christ,
- Gal. 2:20; 5:24; 6:14**

III. ...ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW.

- A. The new creation of God has a *new relationship with God*.
1. **1 Jn. 3:1-2** “the children of God”
 - a. (concept is not understood by “*the world*”)
 - b. We will be *like Him...(&) see Him as He is!!!*
 2. Being His children, we will have the right to call Him, Abba, Father, w/ inheritance rights to the kdgm. of God!!! **Gal. 4:6**

- B. Being *In Christ*, clearly indicates a new relationship we have *with Christ*.
 - 1. Sons of God have *put on Christ* (**Gal. 3:26f**).
 - a. The imagery of putting (in Paul's day) of the toga of youth & dressing in the garments of maturity & a sign of being among the ranks of citizenship.
 - b. This is one way of expressing the adoption of someone's dispositions & outlook, c. **Job 29:14**.
 - 2. In **Rom. 8:17**, we learn that part of this relationship includes being joint-heirs
 - a. The *spirit of adoption* (**vs. 15**) implies that we are deeply wanted, entitled to inheritance.
 - b. That inheritance is heaven, God's home.
- C. Among the *new things* we enjoy is a new relationship with God's Spirit, **Rom. 8:5-16**
 - 1. Working w/ a mind towards spiritual things that lead towards eternal life & peace.
 - 2. He becomes our leader (**vs. 14**) & our proof of identification (witness/testimony), **vs. 16**.
- D. As a new creature in Christ, we have a new relationship to *our enemies*. **Mt. 5:43-48**
 - 1. *Love them....bless.....do good to them.....pray for them*
 - 2. This kind of reaction identifies us with God being our Father (evidence of maturity, completeness in Christ, "perfection").
- E. There is also a special new relationship with *our brothers & sisters in Christ*.
 - 1. **Jn. 13:33-34**, Love one another --- *as I have loved you* = *agapeo*
 - 2. Another dimension of that special new relationship is *brotherly love* **Rom. 12:10** (joy in seeing the other, preferring one another's company) ----- kind affection shown to each other.

Concl.

- A. For those of us in Christ,
 - 1. Good for us to be reminded about how different the opportunities are for us right now in God's family.
 - 2. That's not even counting what wonders await us yet after the judgment --**Mk. 10:30**
 - 3. It is no small wonder that God thru Paul calls us a *new creation* --- new in every way.
- B. Christ wants each of us to be *the light of the world,.....the salt of the earth*.
 - 1. He wants you and I to be *His own children...a new creation....in Christ*.
 - 2. If you have just recognized that possibility today, & & ready to repent....confess....& be bapt. into Christ so that you can begin life new & fresh as you follow the Lord, *please come now.....*

Eph. 3:6 fellowheirs, partakers of his promise *in Christ by the gospel*

1 Tim. 1:1 Promise of life is in Christ Jesus

2 Tim. 2:10 salvation is in Christ Jesus