

The New Has Come; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

I. The New Year

- A. We all look forward to new things
- B. We think that the new is always better than the old
 - 1. New car
 - 2. New home
 - 3. New job
 - 4. New year
- C. The idea of new versus old is also a Biblical concept

II. New vs. Old Covenants

- A. Jeremiah 31:31–34 (ESV); ³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”
 - B. Jeremiah prophesied from 627-586 BC
 - 1. 600+ years before the death of Christ and the beginning of the Church God told them that the Mosaic Law was old and passing away
 - 2. The Israelites looked forward to a new covenant for a long, long time
 - 3. Think of the requirements under the Mosaic Law (for Israel only)
 - a) Tithing 10% (closer to 33% with free will, libation, peace offerings, etc.)
 - b) Sin, trespass, and atonement offerings
 - c) The requirement to go to Jerusalem at least 3 times a year for celebratory and atonement feasts
 - C. 2 Corinthians 3:7–11 (ESV); ⁷ Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses’ face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹ For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.
 - 1. Paul takes us all the way back to Moses and tells us that the Mosaic Law was “being brought to an end” even then!
 - 2. Moses lived around 1560 - 1440 BC
 - 3. What a long wait
 - 4. We have a hard time waiting (closing on a house, picking up a new car, etc.)
- ### III. The Wait is Over
- A. I have already seen countdowns for next Christmas (363 days till Christmas)
 - B. The day came, the new law replaced the old one
 - C. And this law is for all people, not just one nation
 - D. Acts 2:21 (ESV); And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

1. This is a quote from Joel 2:32
 2. It is quoted again in Romans 10:13
- E. Just like we spend our time looking forward to the new, the Old Law spent its time looking forward to the New Law
- F. But unlike us counting down to next Christmas, there will be no new law, this one is here for good
- G. It's Christmas everyday!

IV. The New Has Come

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV); Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- B. If we are going to step into the new, we have to put the old away (it cannot be both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day)
- C. Christ ushered in the New Law (year) almost 2000 years ago as a way for us to overcome sin
- D. A lot of people waited a long time for this (and some did not even get to see it)
- E. Hebrews 11:13 (ESV): These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
- F. Paul's point in our text is that we be reconciled to God
1. This sacrifice is good (once for all)
 2. No more are needed
 3. Just as the old law passed away, our old person passes away
 4. We become new, we move from the material to the spiritual realm; from earthly citizenship to heavenly citizenship
 5. The waiting is over
 6. 2 Corinthians 6:1–2 (ESV); ¹ Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
- G. In order to be new, you must put the old away (you cannot be in both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day)
1. In order to be reconciled to God you must make a conscious decision to put away the earthly and grasp onto the heavenly
 2. Colossians 3:5 (ESV); Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
 3. Colossians 3:12–17 (ESV); ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
 4. Philippians 4:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

V. Step Out of the Old

- A. The New has come
- B. It is time to step out of the old and into the new
- C. A lot of people waited for it but never saw it
- D. Some failed to step into it when it came
- E. It is here and we have unfettered access to it
- F. Put off the old and put on the new