

YOU ARE
COMPLETE
in
HIM.
COLOSSIANS 2:10, NKJV

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

Out with the Old; in with the New

The scripture draws a clear line of demarcation; there is the world, and there is the church. One of the major thrusts of the epistle to the Colossians is laid out early and simply by the apostle Paul. "For He delivered us from the domain of darkness," was the apostle's description, "and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13). The apostle Peter is on board with the same theme, pointing out that the brethren are to "proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). The apostle

John likewise issues his similar exordium, calling the saints out of the world because "the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17). One of the goals of God is to help the saint move from an earthly focus to having his mind truly set on the things above.

- **Put aside** — The apostle Paul reminded the brethren in Colossae that they had been buried with Christ in immersion, and that they had been raised up with Him through their faith in God's working. The old self was gone; the new self was raised up out of the waters of immersion. This new creature, then, is to make certain the old stuff stays gone. "But now you also," asseverates the apostle Paul, "put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth" (Colossians 3:8). Many of these characteristics arise from personal interactions. The saint is to move away from these bad attitude issues and over to the character of Christ. Malice — the deliberate attempt to create ruckuses, division, and destruction — is one that should definitely be put aside. Slander — spreading evil statements about people that are not true — is also very destructive, and is to be eschewed strongly by the saint of God. Abusive speech — "put downs" of every kind — are extremely destructive, and the saint is to move his line of talk to that which builds up rather than destroys.
- **Lay aside** — "Do not lie to one another," warns the apostle, "since you have laid aside the old self with its evil practices" (Colossians 3:9). Satan is the father of lies, noted Jesus, and God wants Christians to eliminate that habit from their lives. "All liars," is the message of the apocalypse of John, "their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). "Outside" the eternal city, the same apocalypse informs saints, is "everyone who loves and practices lying" (Revelation 22:15). The Christian is thusly exhorted to lay aside that old self, with any and all of its evil practices.
- **Put on the new self** — The important aspect is not so much that the old self is gone — although that is highly significant — but the more important part is the putting on of the new self. You laid aside the old self, affirms the apostle, "and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him" (Colossians 3:10). That new self was "put on" in the image of Christ in immersion. "For all of you who were immersed into Christ," declared Paul, "have clothed yourself with Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

Bring on the
new creation
in Christ
Jesus!

Over and over and over again the new testament scriptures work on the idea that there is a totally new creation coming up out of that water. This new creation is not simply the old creature forgiven; this is a brand new being on the inside of that human shell, a treasure-powered son of God inside an earthen vessel. The focus of the word of God, and the interest of the heavenly Father, is on the continued development, use, and victory of that new creation. The old man of sin is gone; bring on the new creation in Christ Jesus!

JAY WILSON