



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

The New Image

Many Christians, amazingly, have a hard time understanding the Biblical concept of the new creation. One of the reasons for that difficulty is that the formation of the new creation is entirely in the realm of that which is unseen, the realm of faith. Forgiveness of sins cannot be seen, which is why there can be all the fake "plans of salvation" that exclude the proper immersion. The indwelling Holy Spirit cannot be seen, which is why some people discount His importance. And the new creation cannot be seen, which is why many do not believe in the possibilities connected with it.

"For we are His workmanship," asserted the apostle Paul, "*created in Christ Jesus* for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). These good works are not just helping little old ladies across the street; they have to do with carrying the gospel to the ends of the world in the face of all the opposition that the minions of Satan can offer.

- ◆ **The new self** — What a blessing it is for the saint to be a "new self." Gone is the old one with whatever guilt feelings were associated with it. This new self was initially "put on" in immersion in Jesus' name, and is a powerful spiritual being superior to mere man (1 Corinthians 3:3). This new self operates with a clean conscience, purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ — blood sprinkled on the heart when the body was washed. This new self functions with the power of the Spirit in the inner man. This new self has been ushered into the very presence of God in the Holy of Holies, and is seated with Christ on the throne. This new self, therefore, has instant and powerful access to all the power provided through prayer by the authority of the great intercessor according to the order of Melchizedek, Jesus Christ Himself.

- ◆ **Image of the One who created him** — This new creation, attested Paul, is "being renewed to a true knowledge in the image of the One who created him." Because of the intensity of the spiritual warfare, and because of the challenge of renewing the mind, a continual renewal of this new creation is taking place by the power of the Almighty God. God "saved us," Paul informed us, "not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and *renewing by the Holy Spirit*, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:5,6). This renewal keeps the disciple of Christ empowered with the strength to walk in the footsteps of Christ, to be holy as the Father is holy. This renewal in the image of Christ the Son of God makes it possible for the new creature to take up the sword of the Spirit and fight the good fight of faith victoriously!

One of the exciting things about this new creature in Christ is that the potential is open to all members of the human race, regardless of background or upbringing. This renewal, affirms Paul, is one "in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman — but Christ is all, and in all" (Colossians 3:11). God doesn't care whether a person comes from the north African coast, the Greek speaking part of southern Europe and western Asia, or whether he is from the steppes of what is now Ukraine; what is important is that he is a new creation in Christ Jesus. The Lord of all does not regard whether a person is of Jewish or Gentile background; what is important is whether that saint is being renewed in the image of the One who created him. The Almighty is not concerned whether the individual is male or female in the fleshly body, or whether the person is slave or free. What is important is whether he is a new creation in Christ Jesus, and whether that new creation is undergoing the continual processes of renewal. The message is clear: keep renewing the new creation!!

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