

“HE IS A NEW CREATURE”

INTRODUCTION

The Bible refers to GOD as the creator of (1) The UNIVERSE; (2) The HUMAN RACE; and (3) ALL THINGS that are good. Gen. 1:1, 31. Then, God rested from His creation. Gen. 2:1-3. This could rightfully be called the “first creation”--the creation of material things. Because Satan interfered with God’s creation, God was ready to work His plan of redemption by a “second creation”--that of the church and His offer of salvation to fallen man.

The New Testament speaks of this by referring to God’s **creation** of new **creatures, created** by Him. In this lesson, we are going to make a study of some verses in the New Testament dealing with these words.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s examine the verses REFERRING TO GOD’S NEW CREATION.

A. Saved individuals are called “new creatures”. 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15

1. Both passages tell us **where** we are “new creatures”--IN Christ Jesus.
2. This means we need to GET into Christ, to BE in Him as new creatures. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:26-27

B. The whole process of redemption is the **working** of God. Eph. 2:8

1. His working plan involves “believing”. John 6:28-29
2. His working plan also involves “baptism”, which completes the process of making us new creatures, when we are born again. Col. 2:12; cf John 3:5, 7
 - a. God’s word, given by the “Spirit” is the **seed** for begetting in the new birth process. Luke 8:11; Jas. 1:18
 - b. Then, the “water” is the element of **baptism** (or immersion) which completes the process, bringing forth “new creatures.” Mark 16:15-16
 - 1) This passage speaks of the “gospel”, which IS that seed.
 - 2) Then, the working of “believing” and “baptism” describes the first and last actions of the one being born again.
 - c. At this point, the “new life” AS “new creatures, BEGINS, since the old man of sin has died and been buried, with a new creature emerging. Rom.6:5-6

II. 2nd, let’s see what is EXPECTED OF NEW CREATURES.

A. Primarily, what GOD expects of new creatures is most important, for it is HIM that we must please.

1. God expects new creatures to **leave** behind the old sinful life of the past, and to put Him and His kingdom first and foremost. Matt. 6:33; 1 Pet. 4:1-3 (study as desired)
2. Then, God expects new creatures to **grow** spiritually, just as a baby born into a human family is expected to grow. 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18
3. God expects new creatures to **teach** others (privately or in the work of the church) to help them to become new creatures also. Heb. 5:12-14
4. God also expects new creatures to **worship** Him, especially on the first day of each week. Acts 2:42; 20:7
5. God expects new creatures to maintain **faithfulness** to Him—ll the days of their lives. 1 Cor. 15:58

B. Then, what OTHERS expect of new creatures is also important.

1. Other Christians expect new creatures to set a good example and live their new life as those who have given a commitment to God. 1 Tim. 4:12

2. Some in the world MAY think new creatures are “*strange*”, for no longer doing what THEY do, and what the new creatures once did. 1 Pet. 4:4

C. Finally, what new creatures think of themselves is VERY important.

1. New creatures have the will and desire to live right from their beginning, with their sights set on eternal life in heaven. Tit. 2:11-13
2. New creatures cannot help but desiring to learn more about the Bible, and being excited about being Christians, to glorify God. 1 Pet. 4:16; Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; 3:21
3. New creatures should seek to engage in a private reading of the scriptures, and a desire to be present in every Bible class of the church, with a realization that something may be learned in any one session, that will help them to avoid sin and it’s consequences, and to ultimately live in heaven.

CONCLUSION

I. When one is first baptized, he or she **becomes** “a new creature” IN CHRIST, and will always strive to be a new creature, as a part of God’s new creation.

A. The opportunity to become a new creature is yours today, if you are willing to confess your faith in Jesus, repent of sins, and be baptized for the remission of sins.

B. IF you, AS a “new creature”, have turned back into sin and need the prayers of the church here, you have the opportunity to make it known

II. If you are subject to the invitation, we encourage you to respond—right now, as we stand together and sing the invitation song that has been selected.

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