

# THE SIX C'S OF THE NEW YEAR

## **INTRODUCTION**

The NT speaks of several things that characterize the Christian age that are of special interest to remember as we enter a new year, and several new things mentioned in the book of Revelation. However, there ARE 6 things taught in the NT that begin with the letter "C"; that we want to explore in our lesson today. They are COVENANT;, CHURCH, CREATION, COMMANDMENT, CHARACTER and CHRIST. Let's notice them one by one.

## **I. The 1<sup>st</sup> "C" stands for the new COVENANT.**

- A. The idea of a "new covenant" suggests that there was first an "old covenant." Heb.8:13
1. The old covenant was given by Jehovah God through Moses on Mt. Sinai.
    - a. This has reference to the two tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments.
    - b. It was given through Moses as the mediator. John 1:17
    - c. It was ratified by the blood of animals. Heb. 9.18-20
    - d. It was called the "law of Moses", because it contained "laws" that came from Moses.
    - e. It's purpose was to guide the Israelites in their civil, moral and religious matters until the promised seed of Abraham, Christ the Savior, would come. Gal. 3:16, 19
  2. The first covenant ENDED with the death of Jesus Christ who came. Col. 2:14
- B. The **new** covenant replaced the **old** covenant, as planned by the God of heaven.
1. Under the old covenant, God foretold that He would replace it with the new. Jer. 31:31-34
  2. Christ announced that a new covenant would be given. Matt. 26:28
    - a. Christ would be the mediator of the new covenant. John 1:17; 1 Tim. 2:5
    - b. Jesus' blood ratified or made official the new covenant. Heb. 9;14-16
  3. The new covenant exceeds in glory over the old covenant, for it brings glory to God in the matter of the church and salvation.

## **II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> "C" stands for the new CHURCH under the new covenant.**

- A. The "old" church was the congregation of Israel in the wilderness. Cf Acts 7:38 (KJV)
- B. The "new" church is the ONE church Jesus built in Jerusalem. Matt. 16:18-19
1. This church began on Pentecost day when the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles. Mark 9:1; Acts 2:1-4
    - a. On this day Peter proclaimed the death, burial, resurrection, ascension and coronation of Jesus at the right hand of God in heaven. Acts 2:36
    - b. Those who obeyed the Lord were added TO the apostles, or the church. Acts 2;38, 40, 41,47
  2. This church does not have a "birthday", for it BEGAN with a **miracle**.
    - a. Now, each person who comes INTO the church may have his own birthday, when he or she was "born again" by the new birth, or in baptism. John 3:5-7
    - b. Those born again are IN the new church. 1 Cor. 12:13

## **III. The 3<sup>rd</sup> "C" stands for the new CREATION of God.**

- A. Both the Old Testament and New Testament refer to the old **material** creation of the heavens and earth in the beginning of time. Gen.1:1; Heb. 1:10-12
1. It did not have a "birthday", for it was created miraculously.
  2. It will have an end at the return of Christ. Matt. 24:35; 2 Pet. 3 :10

- B. The new creation is **spiritual** in nature, describing those who are “in Christ.” 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:8-10, 13-16
1. Those “in Christ” constitute the one body, or church. Eph. 2:13-16; 1:22- 23
  2. Those who are baptized into Christ are then the new creation of God.

#### **IV. The 4<sup>th</sup> “C” stands for the new COMMANDMENT of Christ.**

- A. This is the commandment of “Love”, given by the Lord. John 13 :34-35
- B. This new commandment comprehends all of our relationship with things pertaining to God and man.
1. If we love GOD, we will obey all of His will for us. John 14:15; 1 John 5:3
  2. Then, we are to love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. 1 Pet. 1:22

#### **V. The 5<sup>th</sup> “C” stands for the new CHARACTER of our lives.**

- A. The old man of sin has been put to death and buried Rom. 6:1-7
- B. The new man is alive to righteousness. Rom. 6:8-11; Col. 3:9-10, 12, 12-14

#### **VI. The 6<sup>th</sup> and final “C” stands for CHRIST.**

- A. Without Christ, none of the first 5 “C’s” we have discussed would be possible.
1. We need to recognize Christ and His words will guide our lives to serve God.
  2. We need to recognize that Christ is our authority and has the final word. Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17
  3. We need to recognize that Christ is aware of our conduct and any effort to convince ourselves that we can cover up our sins. Luke 16:15
  4. We need to recognize that He is the best friend we have for time and eternity. John 15:14
  5. We need to recognize that without Christ we can do nothing really worthwhile. John 15:5
  6. We need to recognize that without Christ we are not really living. Phil. 1:21
  7. We need to recognize that Christ and His word will judge us in the last day. John 12:48
- B. We enter **into** Christ when we confess our faith in Him, genuinely repent of our sins, and then take the final step of being baptized in water for the remission of sins.

#### **CONCLUSION**

- I. Of course, there are other things that are “new”, such as the new “name” we wear upon being saved, and the new “hope” we have as Christians, and new “home” that awaits us, that are worthy of our attention in a future lesson.
- II. This being the beginning of a New Year, it behooves us to enter it with renewed interest in spiritual things, and make these 6 “C’s” more meaningful in our lives.

Don Tarbet (Note: You may want to divide the presentation into two lessons, due to it’s length.)