

The New Life (2 Cor 5)

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Introduction: The Christian's mind and life is in great contrast to the world.

- A. Everyone who comes to Christ must make a complete change. **(Acts 26:16-18)**
 - 1. The change is so complete that our past ways are "put to death."
(Rom 8:13; 1 Pet 2:24)
 - 2. The change is so great that it is hard for one who has not been converted to understand.
- B. How does one find this kind of new life?
 - 1. Paul in this chapter reveals the motivation that he and every other Christian that walks by faith has.
 - 2. There is a huge difference between the converted and the one who is only convinced.

I. The New Hope (5:1-9)

- A. In the earlier chapter Paul showed how a clear view of eternity causes one to not lose heart. **(2 Cor 4:16-18)**
 - 1. He now shows more detail into this highly desired final home. Our body is seen to be only a temporary shell. **(5:1; Jas 2:26)**
 - 2. The Christian "groans" to have this place. **(5:2-3)**
 - 3. When we can groan for heaven, the power of God will be strong in our lives. Now we will obey even when we suffer.
 - 4. The daily focus on eternity changes how a Christian views everything.
- B. What does eternity mean?
 - 1. It means a place of immortality. **(5:4; 1 Cor 15:54-58)**
 - 2. How does this world look from this view? **(Rom 8:18)**
 - 3. What will really last? How happy we are when we let go of all the things that this world pursues!
- C. The Holy Spirit gives us this assurance.
 - 1. The Spirit revealed gospel gives us hope. **(Col 1:4-5)**
 - 2. There is also a "downpayment" of the Spirit. **(5:5; 2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:14)**
 - 3. This is described as an "earnest" (guarantee –NKJ).
 - 4. ἀρραβών, ὄνομα, ὁ transliterated from the Hebrew; literally, as a legal and commercial technical term, an advance transaction that guarantees the validity of a contract or a full purchase price *down payment, first installment, pledge*; figuratively in the NT, of the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers (2C 1.22)
 - 5. What is "earnest money" compared to the full value? **(Eph 3:20-21)**
- D. The motivation we have of heaven is that we will be with the Lord!
 - 1. Can we have assurance of salvation? Yes! **(5:6-8; 1 Jn 5:13)**
 - 2. We have assurance because of the promises of God. We stand justified by faith! **(Rom 10:13)**
 - 3. What do you look forward to in heaven? **(5:9; Phil 1:20-23; 1 Thess 4:17)**

4. If our motivation is something else besides seeing and being with the Lord then we need to look closely at our faith. Do you know the Lord?

II. The New Urgency (5:10-11)

- A. What will make a man urgent about the gospel?
 1. The world does not care! They do not want to know. **(1 Thess 5:1-3)**
 2. We however, know! Are we urgent?
 3. While we cannot change another against their will, we can change ourselves. We should be driven to help others know the Lord.
 4. What is the “terror of the Lord?” Do you ever think about it?
- B. One of the problems we face is that we do not know the time and therefore tend to forget how frail we are.
 1. There is only one answer to our urgency Be ready, stay ready! **(Mt 24:43-44)**
 2. How does an urgent person act? (Ex. Supermarket game show)
 3. Repentance cannot come unless a man sees that he is wrong.

III. The New Mind (5:12-21)

- A. Paul unfortunately had to deal with those in the church who still had the "old mind". **(5:12-13)**
 1. There were those who actively sought to tear Paul down. They worked within their own group of self-praise. **(2 Cor 10:12, 18)**
 2. To the worldly mind the spiritual person is crazy! **(1 Pet 4:3-5)**
- B. The new mind is moved by the love of God. **(5:14-15)**
 1. What has Christ done for you? **(Rom 5:6-8)**
 2. This Christ like mind will change how you view everything.
 3. When you are alive from the dead, then your values change. (Ex. Man about to die worked to settle grudges.)
 4. Those who are converted now “no longer for themselves.” Why?
- C. The power of the Christian life is in its “newness.” **(5:16-17)**
 1. When you become a Christian you “rethink” everything. **(Rom 12:1-2)**
 2. Becoming a Christian is never just submitting passively to an outward act. It is a complete change – from inside out!
- D. The basis of our justification is the blood of Christ. **(5:18-21)**
 1. Here we see the meaning of a free gift. **(Eph 2:8-9)**
 2. Do you understand the basis of our reconciliation?
 3. How do you know you are going to heaven?
 4. We also learn about a living faith that obeys. **(Gal 5:6)**

Conclusion: Is your religion new?