

## Intro

- ~ Kent Hughes calls this verse the biography of every Christian
- ~ Eph 2:1-10 captures the essence of 2 Cor 5:17. It chronicles our old life (7 things) to our new life (7 things). We were dead in sins but now we're seated above with Christ as his workmanship. We're appointed to good works
- ~ Kent Hughes, "God's finger sculpted us (so to speak) and then carved out a life for us to serve him."
- ~ 2 Cor 5:17 is a positional verse and yet a practical verse. It speaks of our position in Christ yet our position becomes the motivation also for practicing godliness in our lives
- ~ Perhaps Paul has in mind what Isaiah said in 43:18,19, "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (vv. 18, 19). So the passing of the old and the coming of the new means both complete deliverance from bondage and the dynamic blessings of the new covenant.
- ~ In the Greek, "Therefore, if anyone in Christ new creation." The mention of new creation explodes on us

## Context

- ~ Rom 6:1-11 gives us the context information on our death, burial and resurrection with Christ
- 2 Cor 5:14 – Christ died that we might die with him
- 2 Cor 5:15 – Christ dies that we might live with him
- 2 Cor 5:16 – Christ died that we might live in the new creation. Also, we know Christ after his current position in heaven where he's seated on a throne. He had an earthly ministry but now he has a high priestly ministry

## Text

### Four things from this 2 Cor 5:17

- ~ If any man = it means just that. Any person regardless of education, race, social status, age or sex
- ~ Is 55:1 Ho, if any man is thirsty or hungry let him come and drink and eat even though he doesn't have money
- ~ Jn 3:16 whosoever believes

### 1 In Christ – New Position

- ~ One of Paul's oft used expressions is, "in Christ." It appears 78 times in the NT and 75 times its Paul using it
- ~ Being in Christ refers to our new relationship with Christ
- ~ Lenski, "The picture is that of a sphere or a circle. Christ fills that circle as Christ, as our Savior, our Lord, etc., with all his love for us (v. 14), with his life (4:10), the fount of life for us. We, too, are placed into this sphere.

### 2 New Creature (Creation) – New Person

- ~ A new creation. Something created
- ~ Gal 6:15 *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.*
- ~ The Rabbis used the word of a man converted from idolatry. "He who brings a foreigner and makes him a proselyte is as if he created him."
- ~ This is what this new position in Christ is called a, "new creation"
- ~ This isn't a mending or improvement of our old character but an actual "new creation"
- ~ When we hear this word creation our minds can go back to Genesis 1,2. The devil played a part in ruining that perfect creation. Yet, our position in Christ is the perfect work of God the devil can't touch. He may affect our practice but he can't touch our perfect position in Christ
- ~ Adam was the head of the old creation, and Christ (the Second or Last Adam, 1 Cor. 15:45) is the Head of the new creation
- ~ Gill, "The old creation fell in Adam; the new creation stands in Christ; and once in Him we are in Him forever."
- ~ A new creature doesn't mean perfection but it does try to live out its position
- ~ Spurgeon, "It is unfair for us to expect those who are not **in Christ** to live as if they were **a new creation**. However, it is *not* unfair to expect a changed life from people who say they are Christians!"
- ~ Gill, "being a new creation doesn't mean that we are perfect. It means that we are changed, and that we are being changed."
- ~ Spurgeon, "Living as a new creation is something God works in us, using our will and our choices."
- ~ Paul says we are his workmanship created in Christ unto good works

### 3 Old Things – Old Practices

- ~ Positionally – all old things have been discarded
- ~ Lenski - "have passed away." The aorist denotes one decisive past act by which the grand severance was made and the new creation was wrought. That is, of course, conversion or regeneration. And "passed away" is correct despite the fact that some of the old things still cling to us in this life. They only cling to the new creation; they are now "old things" and not really any longer a part of us. Lenski New Testament Commentary
- ~ Though we're a new creation there are things from the old life that still cling to us
- ~ Practically - old desires, habits, interests, sins, identity, passions that don't glorify Christ pass should pass away
- ~ We're called out of worldliness and now we're part of the church (the family of God)
- ~ Our old life of slavery to self and sin is gone
- ~ Of his former life—'all the old selfish and impure motives, views, and prejudices,'—De Wette

#### Bridge

- ~ From the old to the new deals with sanctification
- ~ God is working in our lives. The bible says to work out your salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12). The old things passing away and things becoming new is that process
- ~ "Jesus Christ was God's response to our selfish sinful nature. " Jotham

#### 4 New Things – New Practices

- ~ Positionally – our life is entirely different. Our new position in Christ entitles us too many new benefits in Ephes.
  - A – Accepted in the beloved
  - S – Seated above
  - I – In Christ
  - C – Complete in Him
  - S - Sealed
- ~ Positionally – We have the HS to quicken us spiritually, convict us when we sin against the Lord, the HS teaches us the WOG
- ~ Practically - New desires, habit, interests, godly character, passions that glory Christ should be part of our life now
- ~ We now have a new view of everything based on scripture
- ~ Now we view people around us as someone for whom Christ died
- ~ Now we can view people the way Christ does. 2 Cor 5:15 says the love of Christ constrains us to love others
- ~ Now we can view problems the way Christ does
- ~ the believer's perspective should have dramatically changed. However, Paul is not suggesting that Christians will automatically have this perspective or will live accordingly. He is talking about positional truth here. Grace New Testament Commentary, The: Based on the New King James Version.
- ~ A new life of devotion in Christ means we have a new master
- ~ Our old master was Satan (2 Cor 4:4) but our new master is Christ and it's our goal to please him

#### Conclusion

~ In 1858, Frances Ridley Havergal visited Germany with her father who was getting treatment for his afflicted eyes. While in a pastor's home, she saw a picture of the Crucifixion on the wall, with the words under it: "I did this for thee. What hast thou done for Me?" Quickly she took a piece of paper and wrote a poem based on that motto; but she was not satisfied with it, so she threw the paper into the fireplace. The paper came out unharmed! Later, her father encouraged her to publish it and we sing it today. The hymn is "I gave my life to thee" to a tune composed by Philip P. Bliss.

I gave My life for thee,  
 My precious blood I shed,  
 That thou might'st ransomed be,  
 And quickened from the dead;  
 I gave, I gave My life for thee,  
 What hast thou given for Me?