

**THE NEW LIFE | Living In Light of Eternity**  
**2 Corinthians 5:1-10**  
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**Lord's Day, January 15, 2017**

**The New Life Series Overview**

- > Living in light of eternity (5:1-10)
- > Living for Christ (5:11-15)
- > Living as ambassadors of Christ (5:16-21)

- **Because we are “in Christ” we are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).**  
Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.

- The analogy to the original creation is striking (2 Cor. 4:6).  
6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- **The idea of newness is a part of God’s redemptive plan.**
  - (1) The prophets promised it (Ezekiel 36:25–28).
  - (2) The Lord spoke about the radical nature of it (Mark. 2:21-22).  
Something so transcendently new had happened that they could not receive Christ into their lives without being made new themselves. It would be impossible to be a Christian and keep to the old ways. **R.C. Sproul**
  - (3) The Lord inaugurated in (1 Corinthians 11:25).
  - (4) The apostle Paul preached it (2 Corinthians 3:5–6).
  - (5) The apostle John saw it (Revelation 21:3–5).
- **Because we are new creations, there is a new perspective on life, death, and eternity.**  
Jesus said, “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness” (Matthew 6:22-23). He makes it clear that our vision is faulty. We need His help to see our life through different eyes—eyes focused on the eternal.

- **What does it mean to live in light of eternity?**

It means we view life from the standpoint of eternal realities.

**1. We know that God will give us a glorified body (5:1).**

**2. We groan for final restoration (vv. 2-4).**

**Romans 8:23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies

**a. We live with the tension between the “already” and the “not yet.”**

- outward man / inner man (4:16)	- momentary / eternal (4:17, 18)
- wasting away / being renewed (4:16)	- affliction / glory (4:17)

- slight / beyond measure (4:17)	- stripped naked / clothed (5:2-4)
- what can be seen / what cannot be seen (4:18)	- mortality / life (5:4)
- tent-like house / building from God (5:1, 2)	- the guarantee of the Holy Spirit / not yet (5:5)
- earthly / heavenly (5:1)	- sight / faith (5:7)
- destroyed / eternal (5:1)	- at home in the body / away from the Lord (5:7-9)

### b. We have the Holy Spirit as a pledge of ultimate transformation (v. 5).

**Ephesians 1:13-14** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

#### ▪ How do Christians know that the promise of a heavenly existence is real?

- (1) The Word of God - Objective
- (2) The Holy Spirit - Subjective

- We are being renewed day by day (2 Cor 4:16).  
So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

- We are being transforming us into the image of Jesus (2 Cor 3:17-18).  
Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The inward renewal produced by the Spirit culminates in the Christian's complete transformation at the end. Paul's answer is that the experience of the transforming and uplifting power of the Holy Spirit now in their lives is the one piece of empirical evidence that shows that God promises are real. Paul had no need to convince the Corinthians of the Spirit's transforming power, and he appeals to it to make his case for the amazing transformation that awaits Christians at death. -David Garland

- If we hope to be conformed to Christ's glorious body in the next life, we must be conformed to his character in this life.

### 3. We walk by faith, not by sight (5:6-8).

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- When a Christian dies does he/she immediately enter Christ's presence?

Nature of death for the Christian:

- (1) Death means the destruction of the earthly tent-dwelling (5:1).
- (2) Death brings a departure from mortal embodiment to a conscious presence with the Lord (5:8).
  - Residence in the body = absence from the Lord (v. 6)
  - Absence from the body = residence with the Lord (v. 8)

**Philippians 1:21–24** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

**4. We make it our aim to please to please God (5:9-10).**

**a. There are reasons for pleasing Christ:**

- (1) Destiny with Christ (5:1-8).
- (2) Accountability to Christ (v. 10)

**b. Are you living for the dot or for the line?**