



December 28, 2025
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“A New Year”

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 – “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Happy ALMOST New Year!

Ecclesiastes 1:9 – “There’s nothing new under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 1:2 – “‘Vanity of vanities,’ says the Preacher, ‘Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.’”

In **2 Corinthians 5**, Paul spoke of...

- His confidence in the reality of heaven (vv.1-8)
- His concern and desire to please the Lord (vv. 9-13)
- And that Christ’s love controls us (vv.14-17).

It’s interesting that in **Romans 16** Paul includes a long list of names.

- vv.1-2 says Phoebe is to be received in the Lord.
- vv.2-3 says Priscilla and Acquilla were to be greeted as helpers in Christ Jesus.
- v.7 Andronicus and Junias were recognized as apostles and in Christ before Paul.
- v.8 Ampliatus is beloved in the Lord.
- v.9 Urbanus is a helper in Christ.
- v.11 Those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.
- v.12 Tryphaena and Tryphosa, workers in the Lord.
- v.13 Rufus, a choice man in the Lord.

1. A message of regeneration (v.17)

2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

The caterpillar, the cocoon, and the butterfly

- The caterpillar represents our sinful, earthly existence
- The cocoon represents our spiritual journey
- The butterfly represents our new creation in Christ.

2. A message of reconciliation (v.18-19)

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 – “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

The ministry of reconciliation...

- 1) Starts with God sending His only begotten Son to earth

2) Is the invitation of forgiveness through the cross of Jesus Christ

3) Has been entrusted to Christ's faithful servants

3. The message of redemption (v.21)

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 – “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

What do ambassadors do?

1) Ambassadors are chosen by their government or sovereign

2) Ambassadors are protected by their government

3) Ambassadors are provided for by the sending nation

4) Ambassadors are accountable

5) Ambassadors are usually called home before a declaration of war

6) Ambassadors will spend time on foreign soil

7) The ambassador's first obligation is always to the Sovereign who sent him

2 Corinthians 10:1 – “Paul says, ‘I urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ...’”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to be “in Christ,” and how does this change your identity?
2. When you become a “new creation” is this immediate, or a gradual process?
3. What are some of the “old things” that have passed away since you came to Christ?
4. What does it mean to be reconciled to God?
5. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?
6. What does it mean for us to “become the righteousness of God in Him”?
7. How can we live as ambassadors in our jobs, homes, and communities this year?