

## Driven: Things that Enable, Empower and Inspire Believers

### *All Things New*

2 Corinthians 5:11-17

June 21, 2020 am

HDBC

Generally speaking **NEW** is good. That does not mean **old** is bad. But who doesn't like something new. *I love the smell of a new vehicle, the feel of a new keyboard on a laptop. When I was a kid there was nothing like a new box of crayons or a new box of pencils for school.*

**New** is especially important when the old becomes worn out, obsolete or ineffective. *There was a time to retire the **bell-bottom jeans and leisure suits** from the 70's.* There is a time to trade in the **station wagon** for a new model.

***There is a reason** you can watch a movie tonight on Netflix but you can't drive to the local Blockbuster store and rent the movie and bring it home. 20 years ago Blockbuster reigned supreme over the video rental industry with 9,000 stores. When **Reed Hastings**, founder of a fledgling startup company called Netflix met with the CEO of Blockbuster and proposed a partnership he was laughed out of the office. Blockbuster died because they were unwilling to realize the current model was quickly becoming obsolete. Unwilling to try something **NEW**.*

**The gospel is all about new things.** New life. New relationships. New perspectives. New confidence. New future. In fact it can be argued that the gospel brings **All Things New** for the believer. That is essentially what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17. Let's look at it in context this morning.

**This is # 6** in the sermon series, *Driven: things that inspire, empower and enable us to live the life Christ calls us to live.* One of the things that drives us is the knowledge that Christ replaces that which is old and ineffective with that which is new, effective and powerful.

**Read the text: 2 Corinthians 5:11-17.**

#### **1. New Priority (11-13)**

*Knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men . . .*

**Focus** here is on the **fear of the Lord**.

**Understand the context.** Paul assures them that he is not tooting his own horn or trying to build himself up in their minds. Note phrase in verse 11.

He is already *made manifest* to God. His true spiritual condition was known to God and he hoped it would be seen by them, as well. He had not ministered out of selfish motives (13). Paul wants them to know that what he did was for God first and for them second. It was not for himself. So, what drove Paul to bring the gospel to the Corinthians?

### ***Fear of the Lord***

To fear the Lord is to have reverence, awe, and respect for Him resulting in worship, honor and service. The fear of the Lord brings **clarity, comfort and motivation**. He had a healthy reverence for the Lord.

### ***We persuade men***

The fear of the Lord leads Paul to a new priority, helping other people come to know Jesus. The word means, *to convince, to prevail upon, to win over*. This does not mean Paul used force, shame, deception or theatrics. It means he used **intelligent reasoning** to help people explore the truth about Jesus and salvation. He truly believed Jesus is the only way to salvation. That conviction led him to be passionately committed to evangelism.

**Keep in mind** verse 10. We dealt with it last week. There is a Coming Judgment when we will be judged not for our sins but our faithfulness. Part of that judgment will surely involve our participation in evangelism or our lack of participation in it. Paul's reverence for the Lord and knowledge of the coming judgment motivating him with this **new priority**.

**When John Grisham** wrote a book called ***A Time To Kill***, it sold just five thousand copies in hard cover. Not advertised or promoted. It was sort of a flop. Then he wrote ***The Firm***, and it wasn't advertised either. It was hardly reviewed, and the reviews weren't very good. But people read it and liked it and told other people they liked it and ***The Firm*** sold seven million copies.

**John Grisham** has written several other books, and today the number-one paperback best seller in the United States is by John Grisham, as are number-two and number-three. And the number-one hardcover best seller is by John Grisham. That has never happened before, and it's not because of a clever marketing plan, but because somebody liked the book and told someone else. I guess a lot of people liked the book and told other people, until millions of these books have been sold.

**Christians are** people who like Jesus. They've experienced him, and so they tell somebody else. Market is ok, but that is not the key to spreading the gospel. Evangelism happens when people who like Jesus and have experienced him, tell other people.

In Christ we have **A New Priority**. Persuading others to consider Jesus.

## **2. New Loyalty (14-15)**

*The love of Christ controls us . . .*

**Focus is** on Christ's love for us, demonstrated by what He has done for us. His love is best demonstrated through his sacrificial, substitutionary death.

His death was **sacrificial** in that He died **voluntarily**. It was His choice.

His death was **substitutionary** in that He died **in our place**. It was for us.

**Controls – pressure that produces action.** The magnitude of Christ's love for Paul drove him toward a loyalty to Christ. Because of Christ's love, Paul could not simply go his own way, do his own thing, live his own life. Christ's love produced in Paul a **new loyalty, to Christ!**

**Paul then dives deeper** into the meaning of the death of Christ. Not only was it sacrificial and substitutionary, but it was **representative**. *One died for all, therefore all died.* That sounds strange and illogical. If one died for all, then all should have lived. That would be substitutionary death, only.

**If Christ died for all**, in what way can it be said that all then have died? The answer is this. Jesus death was not only substitutionary, but representative. His death **represents my death**. When He died for me, it was as if I died with Him. So, when I was saved His death became my death in the sense that I had died to sin and all its consequences. In His death for my sins I was able to die to the consequences of my sins. The penalty for my sins died with Christ. But there is more.

**I not only died** with Christ, but I live with Christ. I identify not only with His death but with His life. As I died with Him through His death, I live with Him in and through His resurrection. Notice the key phrase in verse 15. *So that they who live might not live for themselves, but for Him.* That indicates a new loyalty. Because of His death and resurrection for me, I now live for Him. I have a **New Loyalty**. I no longer live for self or for others. But for Him.

**My primary** loyalty is not to **a political party or ideology; not to a social agenda or movement; not to a church or denomination; not to my career goals or financial dreams; not to personal health or well-being; not to comfort or convenience.** My chief loyalty is to Christ. **Why? His love for me!**

**New Priority, New Loyalty,**

### **3. New Perspective (16-17)**

*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature . . .*

**Focus** on the transformed life that comes with salvation.

**In verse 16** Paul is simply saying that everything changes when a person is born again. Before salvation we look at life with physical eyes. We only saw one another in the physical, fleshly realm. That is how we viewed Christ. But after salvation there a new perspective. Our entire worldview changes because of Christ. We see Christ in a new light. We see others in a new light. We see ourselves in a new light.

**Verse 17** summarizes the transformation that takes place at salvation. Three phrases are used to describe the results of this transformation.

### ***He is a new creature***

You did not cease to be who you are as a human being when you trusted Christ. Same name, same body, same mind. But you received a new identity. At salvation you became a child of the living God and a brother or sister of every other Christ-follower. You added a new identity to the one you already had. But the word also implies quality as well as quantity. Not simple something new added to what you were, but an advance in the quality of who you already are.

### ***Old things have passed away***

What old things? Values, ideas, plans, desires, beliefs. The things that categorized your life as an unbeliever are gone, The penalty for your sins. They have been crucified with Christ. This is why you began to see things differently when you were saved.

**There is** an instant and progressive nature of this reality. The old things have passed away instantly and permanently from a positional standpoint. But from an experiential standpoint we still sometimes struggle with those old things. The sinful, fleshly nature does not give up easily. There is a process that involves us growing in Christ to the point where we struggle less and less with the temptation to revert back to our past life. Romans 7 offers a picture of what this looks like.

### ***New things have come***

This phrase speaks of a past act that has continuing results. New things came to us at salvation that will continue to be experienced by us the rest of our lives. New desires, new plans, new loves, new truths. A new way of looking at life. New future. New relationships. **New perspective.**

**This new perspective** changes . . .

What we think about **ourselves**. Children of the King. Servants of Christ.

What we think about the **afterlife**. There is more than this life.

What we think about the **world**. Worldview changes. Not here by chance.

What we think about **current events**:

**The pandemic**. It is of this world but not the next. God has a plan.

**Issues of justice**. Justice, as a moral good comes from God. It is right to speak for and work for justice for all.

**Racism**. All people are made in the image of God and have equal worth.

**Violence and looting**. Violate law of love and respect for others. Government is established by God to maintain peace for all.

What we think about **chaos**. God has never lost control. He has this.

What we think about the **future**. **JESUS WINS!**