

## 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “All Things New”

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Read:

**Luke 23:44–49**, *"Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. <sup>45</sup> Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' " Having said this, He breathed His last. <sup>47</sup> So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" <sup>48</sup> And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. <sup>49</sup> But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things."*

Today I want to look at the resurrection of Jesus not so much for what it means for us in a future day, but for the promise and power it provides for today. Our very faith and salvation hinges on the reality of the resurrection.

But I think all too often we can look at the fact that Jesus rose from the grave and ascended to heaven and is preparing a place for us, and that's all great and to that we say a big Amen!, but it can perhaps leave people at times with a bit of a question as to, *'What now? What does this mean for today?'*

Well, we have great news. Because the resurrection of Jesus is not just a promise of future blessing for us, it's the reality of new life now.

We're going to look at some things we've been going through in 2 Corinthians today, but first, let's look at the resurrection account according to Luke:

**Luke 24:1–12**, *"Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. <sup>3</sup> Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. <sup>5</sup> Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " <sup>8</sup> And they remembered His words. <sup>9</sup> Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and*

*the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened."*

Now think about Peter. What's been going through His mind the last few days? I'm sure he's been replaying the scene of his denial of Christ. We read that when Peter denied Jesus the third time that *"...the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."* <sup>62</sup> So Peter went out and wept bitterly" (Luke 22:61–62).

I'm sure this memory has been plaguing Peter. And now he sees the empty tomb. Is Peter wondering how is he ever going to face Jesus now? Maybe he's thinking he's going to get the biggest rebuke ever. Perhaps Peter is thinking, *'Maybe I have a chance to make things right and seek forgiveness.'*

- And we see indeed that Peter was restored and forgiven. Jesus not only forgave Peter but raised him up to a place of prominence in service to the Lord (John 21:15-19). Peter began to see that with Jesus' resurrection, things are going to be different.
- As the days moved from the resurrection of Jesus to the Feast of Pentecost, Peter was the man used to proclaim the powerful word of the Gospel. No longer was he a fearful, Jesus denying, follower at a distance. He was now the bold, tell it like it is, devotee of Jesus.
- Because of Jesus' resurrection, Peter now experienced new life! He said in that Pentecost sermon: *"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses"* (Acts 2:32).

There are many proofs of the resurrection. We've gone through many of them in previous Easter messages. But a great proof that is hard to deny is a present changed life. Peter said that they're all witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. That was true and literal – they saw Jesus and spent time with Him after His resurrection and before He ascended to heaven. And yet, as true as that was for them, it's as true for us today – that we are to be witness of a living, active Saviour who has radically changed our lives. That's a very compelling witness. It's the fact that Jesus is alive today that gives us the power and purpose to live these lives. And not just to live these lives, but to live in the newness of life that He has given!

So picking it up in what we've been looking at in 2 Corinthians, let's read 5:17:  
**5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

I've titled our Resurrection Sunday message All Things New! This is a day to celebrate that Jesus' resurrection promises us something new. But what does it mean that ***all things have become new***? *All things*, seems to be a pretty broad statement here, and you're right, it is. But let's look at a few things this morning that would speak of that which has become new.

## 1. New Life

We read that if anyone is in Christ, ***he is a new creation***...

This is not about being reformed, rehabilitated, or revived, this is about a re-creation. The fellowship and union that God intended for us in the beginning when He created Adam and Eve, was lost due to the fall of man and the corruption of sin. For thousands of years people lived under the weight of this sin and the consequences of it. People were cut off from close and intimate fellowship with God. But now in and through Jesus we've become a new creation. This is not speaking about 'new' in time, but rather 'new' as to form or quality. There is a new nature now about us.

And who is this experienced by? Anyone who is ***in Christ***. This is an offer for anyone. But the stipulation is you need to be in Christ. It's not being in yourself, or being in some religion, it's if you are ***in Christ***!

How is one in Christ?

- One is in Christ by putting your faith and trust in who Jesus is – that He is the Son of God who came to this world in divinity, yet in sinless humanity. That He died on a cross to pay the penalty for your sin and take the judgment of God so that you could be forgiven and declared righteous in Him.
- Being in Christ is not just about attaching your name to His and saying you believe in the existence of God. Rather it's to say that you are a lost sinner, doomed on your own, but you've found refuge and redemption in Jesus and in the knowledge that Jesus died and rose again for your salvation.

And so, if you are in Christ, you are a new creation! You now have new life!

**Romans 6:3–10**, *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him*

*through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God."*

These lives have been made new so that we can live them in a greater way for the One who died and rose again for them.

**2 Corinthians 5:15**, *"and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."*

## 2. New Standing

So, because Jesus has been raised to life, we have new life. But it can feel at times like we're still struggling with the old life. What's the connection there? It's important to note that this new life doesn't just describe our *practice*, but more so our *position*. Again, it's those who are in Christ. In me, I still struggle. But in Christ I have the power to live for Him and in Him to where my practice begins to align with my position in Him. What's my position or standing in Him? We're made righteous! I'm no longer seen by what once marked my life. I've been made new in Christ. Jesus defeated my sin on the cross and He rose again to secure newness of life for us.

***old things have passed away***... The things perhaps we used to struggle with, the things that used to identify us; these things no longer have any sway or hold on our life. Why? Because we're in Christ, we're living in His victory over death and in His life.

- **Romans 8:1**, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."*
- If you are in Christ, you no longer need to live in the past. You're not bound by what you did; past mistakes and past failures don't have to bring you under guilt and shame. We have a new standing in Christ.

As new creations we are hidden with Christ and we can have confidence that we are shielded in His righteousness and will one day stand complete in Him!

- **Colossians 3:3**, *"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*
- **Ephesians 2:6**, *"and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"*
- **1 Thessalonians 1:10**, *"and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."*

### 3. New Perspective

Because we are alive in Christ, we have a new view of our value system, our outlook and philosophy of life. We're no longer living for the things of this world; we see the temporary nature of these things. We know that our lives have been purchased at a great price by Jesus who gave His life for us.

We recognize that our aim is not to seek pleasure and satisfaction from this world. We know that our lives now are lived with a different purpose, there's a different aim, and that is to please the Lord who gave it all for us.

And because Jesus is alive, we don't get rattled by our circumstances and trials of life. We have a living Saviour who is working for us and keeping us secure.

- **Hebrews 7:22–25**, *"by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. <sup>23</sup> Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. <sup>24</sup> But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

We don't live by what we see, we live by faith. And we live by faith in a Saviour who has not only saved us **from** much, but He has saved us **to** the uttermost! Our focus isn't dwelling on what's in front of us, but rather, as Hebrews 12:2 says, *"looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

### 4. New Hope



And now that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the throne of God, we have a new hope. He is our Savior who died for us and rose again, He has forgiven us and given us a right standing before God, we have a new perspective through this life, and because He is alive, we now have a confidence in the life to come!

- **Job 19:25–26**, *"For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; <sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,"*
- **1 Peter 1:3**, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"*
- **1 Peter 1:21**, *"who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."*

Do you have a confidence today that because Jesus rose from the grave, you too will receive everlasting life?

This incredible reality and gift for us is absolutely amazing. It should cause us every day to wake up praising God for His goodness and grace.

**1 John 5:11–13**, *"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."*