

The New Creature and its Eventual Use

By James E. Seward

Whether you realize it or not, the very moment you received Christ as your savior, you were taken from one world of existence into an absolutely new kingdom. God has shut down the old life and you are in a realm where nothing of the old counts any more.

This is not an improvement of the human self; it means that at the time you received Christ as Savior, the Father **birthed** Christ in you. At that moment you were made a completely new person. Whether you feel it or not, you are not the same person as you were. Christ has become your life and the Father will count only on the Christ He birthed in you.

Get this one fact straight: You will NEVER improve. You have been put to death in Christ.

Rom. 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Let us discuss how the Father has accomplished this.

First, as a result of Adam eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, all mankind has what many called a "sinful nature." This is not a scriptural term. The scriptures have terms for this.

Eph. 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Eph. 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the

flesh and of the mind; and were nature the children of wrath, even as others

We have the term "sin" singular as used in Rom. 5:6,7. We can call this Mr. Sin. A person He is given a personality from Gen 4:6,7. In John 8 Jesus says of those he is arguing with, "ye are of your father the devil."

We are speaking of an unsaved person living with the producer of sinning living in him.

In receiving Christ, believing, and the birthing, the Father has made provision for the old producer of sins to be taken out of a believer.

Having looked at the Cross process, we see that it has produced us as a new race of people. Now what are the implications of you and I being make new?

"Old things have passed away." I am no longer who I was; I have no past any more. Why is this? "I have died in Christ" (Gal. 2:20) I no longer live. This means: I may be walking around breathing and doing things. Though I am still alive physically, I have had an exchange of natures. I am not made better—I have been put to death and made a new person.

I live from a new center. I live from an indwelling person—Christ. The bible puts forth the fact that Christ is now my life, my only life.

- Col. 3:3 *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God*

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Now! This is our relationship to the Father. The Father looks at me in perfect relationship to Himself. I am His Son—a birthed son—totally forgiven. And he showers His love upon me.

THIS IS WHAT I AM AS A NEW PERSON IN CHRIST.

- Romans 8:1--There is no condemnation toward me.
- Colossians 1:21-22--We are unreprouvable in His sight.
- Colossians 2:10--We are complete in Him
- I Corinthians 1:30--He is my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption
- Romans 5: 1 & Eph. 2:14--Christ is our peace
- Hebrews 4:10-11--Christ is our rest
- Matthew 11:28--In Him we find rest to our souls.
- John 14: 6--Jesus is to me the way, the truth, and the life.
- II Corinthians 1:24--Christ is the Power of God
- I John 5:11--Christ is our life
- Colossians 3:11--Christ is all and in all.
- I Corinthians 6:17--He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit
- Galatians 3:13--Christ has taken away the penalty and duty of the law.
- Galatians 6:15--The important thing about this new life is that we are New Creations—and not religion.

I John 5:11 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

We are made up of BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT.

- We are saved in our SPIRIT.
- Our soul mind is not saved yet. Our soul mind is to be renewed from the old ways to Christ being our life. Paul says in Phil 2:5, "Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus."
- Our body will be changed at the rapture.

Even though we are saved in spirit and are perfectly related to God, please realize that we drag a lot of junk across the line into the life of Christ. This is because the mind is not saved.

Our minds are programmed by Satan in the old life—to do his bidding. This is why our minds need to be renewed. To change one's mind is difficult. This is a process that takes time. This is the area that the Holy Spirit works to make this "inner Christ" known.

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

The Holy Spirit is the revealer and teacher and only by Him will we ever see ourselves as new creatures. Notice the terms Paul uses as Holy Spirit terms: knowing, understanding, revelation, learning, and knowledge. These terms are the means by which the (soul) mind comprehends truth as we move from the old way of thinking. Now we give our mind to Christ. Our inner spirit is fixed in a perfect relationship to Christ, but the mind is continually changing to be in accordance with the Christ in us.

Eph. 4:13 *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ....*

Paul says in Gal 4:19 *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you...*

This does not mean that Christ is not in you. It refers to the process of your mind and insight moving to the full comprehension of the Christ that is already in you.

It is amazing how many habits; concepts and religious ideas need to be re-seen as we move into living from the person of Christ.

I have stated before that life is not lived from one's self nor principles, concepts, Bible verses, or commandments but from Christ Himself. Being a Christian really means that Christ lives His own particular life through me. It is not Him helping us to

live. It is He living. Remember I have been put to death in Christ and I no longer live.

He lives His own life through me. In similar comparison Jesus did not live His own life. He lived the life of His FATHER. Jesus only did what His Father led Him to do. This is the same comparison of myself to Christ.

John 15:5 *...for without me ye can do nothing.*

As we come to an inner knowing of Christ we are being prepared as a vessel that Christ may flow out of me to a lost and dying world.

The Father uses many situations and circumstances to bring us to the inner knowing that Christ lives in me. Also He uses situations and circumstances to get this Christ out of me to others.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Let us look at II Corinthians Chapter 4. There is an example in nature that shows what this chapter is about. In the northwestern part of our country we have very unique fish, the Salmon. Every year they leave the rivers and great bodies of water to go up stream—over waterfalls, dams past fishermen and bears to get to the little stream where they were born.

They struggle; strain and literally wear themselves out to get to that little branch or creek and lay their eggs. Then they die.

The salmon has given its life that life could come forth out of itself. We have to realize that this is instinctual. Yet there is built into the fish that purpose to give its life to produce life.

We have a voracious lover living inside of us. He has given His life that we may have life. He longs to move through you and me to show His love to the world.

The believer must have his whole outlook adjusted and changed in order that Christ will have a proper vessel to show Himself through . I say all of this to you so you will not be shocked when the Father has maneuvered you into many situations that are very trying. We can look at them as trials and hard times, and complain. Or we can see through these situations in relation to what the Father's purpose is:

- 1.To get to know Him as a personal reality; and
- 2.To be the vessel by which He reaches others.

Paul used the phrase "learning Christ." "Learning Christ" is not studying the history of Jesus of Nazareth as he went about doing things. "Learning Christ" is to experience Christ living His life in you and as you. Paul uses a term in Ephesians, Romans, and Colossians called "mystery." We know from Colossians 1:27 that it's definition is Christ in you.

In plain English, the Father puts us through many circumstances and situations that we may "learn" how Christ functions through me as the vessel. The process produces in me a knowing that I may be established in Him.

Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began...

There is a confidence built up in me that He and I can function as one. Remember: I Cor. 6:17...he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

This is the kind of prepared vessel the Father needs to express the life of Christ to others.

Remember our example of the salmon. The fish has an instinctual drive to go up stream and die to produce life.

Instead of an instinctual drive in us working, we have this lover Christ in us as a driving force.

In Colossians 1:24-27, Paul is fulfilling the kind of life we are explaining. It is noteworthy that he rejoices in the cost of such ministry.

As a person lives in this endeavor, there are many problems, trials and troubles. This is because we are going against the stream. As the salmon needs to jump over waterfalls and obstacles we are living in a direction that goes against the tide.

This is NOT the Father sticking pins in us to make us miserable. This is to be expected because religion, the world system and the life are obstacles hindering us in the way. If we understand what is happening, we can rejoice and have peace as Paul did. For Paul tells us:

II Cor. 4:1 *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not.*

Why did Paul make that statement? Answer: The believer is going to go through hard times that Christ may flow from inside out to others. This is an encouraging statement to understand what God is doing. Going against the oncoming stream! But don't faint and give up!

Several things are happening to you. You are becoming a living sacrifice (as in Rom. 12:1); you are filling up that which is behind all of the afflictions of Christ (as in Col. 1:14); and you are being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake—death working in us (as in II Cor. 4:11).

What is all of this producing? LIFE IN OTHERS. Now we have more statements of encouragement:

II Cor. 4:8 *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair*

9 *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

10 *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

Notice:

- We are not distressed.
- We are not in despair.
- We are not forsaken.
- We are not destroyed.

Remember, as in vs. 7, we are vessel containing this wonderful treasure, CHRIST. Paul points out that the excellency of the power is God. Note again, as in vs. 7. We have no power. He is the power. This is to show that even if we the vessel are catching a lot of pressure, His power is flowing through us to give new life to you and others, whether you can feel it or not.

So do not be surprised and shocked when seemingly, bad things happen to you. We must look at Paul to see his attitude in these circumstances.

Col. 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24 *Who now rejoice in my suffering for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church;*

25 *Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the work of God;*

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Amazing! To rejoice and give thanks and praise while going through all of this! His first calling is described in Acts Chapter 9:

15 But the Lord said unto him, God thy way: Go thy way: for he is chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

16 For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Why did he eventually rejoice in these sufferings? He understood the eternal purpose of God and chose to fulfill what he was chosen for.

We want to investigate more about why Paul would rejoice in his sufferings. Look at Philippians 3:8.

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

No one would give up all of his own life and suffer this kind of loss unless he had an all consuming love for Christ and the Father. Paul speaks much about the Father and Christ loving us fervently. This love to God is a result of His love shed abroad in us.

Eph. 3:17--That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all fullness of God.

You read through all of Paul's epistles and in all of them you see this love he has for Christ and the Father. If we love God with this intensity we also would not care what would happen to us. If you read I Cor. 12,13 you would see Paul's emphasis of love.

Sacrifice is joyfully endured when our love for God is passionate. The Father is longing for such love from us. Paul says in Galatians 5:6 "faith worketh by love."

II Cor. 4:17 Got our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory:

17 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Don't look at that which is seen and obvious. When these things are happening to you. God is getting His purposes across.

Lastly we look at II Cor. 1:3 through 9.

3the God of Comfort

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort where with we ourselves are comforted by God.

5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

6 And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same

sufferings which we also suffer, or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

As the Father puts you through these pressured circumstances the lost and needy will see Christ in you and will come to you to get LI FE in Christ.

Your ministry to others will have much more effect on others if you have experienced similar circumstances. You can say, "I have been there and I have seen Christ manifest Himself as I have experienced it."

Christ Himself was tempted on all points. Notice the scripture in Hebrews chapter 4.15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

As Christ had real human experience He can thoroughly understand our pressures. We likewise we can have empathy with those that need help.

I conclude with Paul's statement in II Cor. Chapter 3:2--*Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men..*