

Date: 11.10.2020

Time: 6pm

Preacher: Gavino Fioretti

Psalm: Psalm 23 (Scottish Psalter)

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Outline: New Creation

Introduction

A new condition

A new lifestyle

A new assurance

New Creation

• **Introduction**

There's much to encourage and challenge God's people in this passage. Being a new creation is a central theme in the chapter. A child of God is a new creation. It's God's work that the old has gone and the new is here. If we're a new creation, it's because God has taken the initiative and changed us - Ezekiel says that our stony heart is replaced with a heart of flesh. Our desires and motivations are changed. If revival comes in a person's life, or in a church, this is God's work, not man's. There's no man-made sermon that will change a person; it's God that does it. We come to God in prayer asking that He would change people - this is not what we're able to do. He's done this for us and He'll do this for all He has chosen.

God's done this work through His Son. Jesus is the ground and foundation that is used to bring about God's purpose. Those in Him are different. Jesus is the way to be the men and women that God wants us to be. To be new people, we need the work of God and we need the Son of God. We can do nothing without Christ. Those around us don't need religion or a new way of living; they need Jesus.

1) A new condition

Reconciled with God: As a new creation, we're in a new situation, a new condition. Before, we were God's enemies, not seeking after Him. If we could, we'd have lived as if there were no God. By nature, we don't like God. People don't like that God tells them what's right or wrong and will judge them and so live as though there is no God. God was against us. To be reconciled, two sides must be willing, but because of our sin God was against us. But through Jesus, we can be reconciled to God. We're at peace with God. Enmity is replaced with peace. God is for us. We have a God who cares for us and who does us good as we are His children. Through Christ, we're adopted into God's family and He is our Father. There's a covenant of peace that unites us to God. There's reconciliation between us and God.

Right with God: vs 19. Justification is that God pardons all of our sins and chooses not to count our sins against us. He's cast our sins away as far as east is from the west. Before, we were wrong, sinful and guilty before God. Now we're right before God. Justification doesn't change us, but it's His declaration that changes our standing before Him. Before we were guilty, now we're innocent. Before we were sinful, now we're clean. Even as believers, we worry about our standing before God and we worry about the judgement day. But God's Word encourages us - God is not against us; He is for us. We have become the righteousness of God because of Christ (not righteous, but this is our new standing - clothed in His righteousness). We're safe before Him.

Servants of God: vs 15. We lived for ourselves before. We lived for our satisfaction and pleasure. But the moment God saved us, something new happened and we don't live for ourselves but for Him. Before, we lived as gods to ourselves. Now we live for the One who died and was raised for our salvation. We stand before God not as His enemies, but His servants. Not as guilty sinners, but clothed in His righteousness. Reconciled to be right and to be His servants, living for Him. We see the grace of God in His saving us and our responsibilities now as His servants.

2) A new lifestyle

Longing for Jesus: vs 8. Who we are and what we do changes now we are a new creation. We now long for Jesus. If we have to die, it means we will be with Christ which is far better for us. In many ways, we're attached to this life, but as a new creation, there's something more important than life itself – to be with Christ. Christ has become the centre and circumference of our life. He's become our delight. To be with Christ is more than life itself. We see Him as the most precious thing. We don't want to die, but we do want to be with Jesus. "Heaven without Christ wouldn't be Heaven."

Faith in Jesus: vs 7. Although we don't see exactly what will happen, we trust in our Redeemer, in the One who has done all for us. We've committed ourselves to God's care, committing our spirit and life to Christ's care. Faith in Jesus is the mark of a new creation.

Captured by the love of Jesus: We're amazed by His love for us and this motivates, changes, encourages and strengthens us. At times, we're afraid of people, but we're enabled to do things as a response to the love of Christ for us. We do what we do because Christ loves us, not for fear of His punishment. The measure of our understanding of Christ's love is small at times, but it captures and motivates us. We feel shame for sin because we want to please Christ, not for fear of others discovering us.

Pleasing Jesus: There's a different aim in life – to please Jesus, not just to obey Him. Obedience is part of this, but love is the idea here. We want to please someone we love. This is the desire we should have as a Christian, to please Jesus and do what He delights in. Love is crucial. When God comes into our lives, He makes us new and different and we love Him and try to please Him in all that we do.

Living for Jesus: Our lives don't belong to ourselves, but to Christ. We live for Him and exist for Him. We exist to love Him, to glorify, to exalt and to bless Him and to lift Him on high so others see His beauty. He is our life.

3) A new assurance

The Spirit of Jesus: vs 5. That we have the Spirit of Christ in us reassures us that God will accomplish what He has started. Those aspects of salvation not yet come, will be accomplished and the Spirit of God guarantees this. The Spirit reassures the church that all the promises of God are yes and amen in Jesus.

To be with Jesus: vs 8. We're not afraid of death as we used to be as when we die, we're going home. This is a temporary home that we're in, we've got an eternal home ahead of us. We'll be with Jesus. We'll be home with Jesus. We've not seen Him, but we love Him. We'll be with Christ. We'll be with those we've loved who loved Jesus.

The life from Jesus: We have an eternal hope. We'll be free from death and we'll be delivered from death itself. We'll have a perfect, immortal body. We'll be transformed fully by Christ. Those in Christ will last forever.

The kingdom of Jesus: We live to please our King, to obey Him and to live lives that honour our King. The reassurance we have is that we belong to God's kingdom. We have a glorious future ahead of us. We'll experience God's presence, favour and glory. We have a new destiny. It is wonderful to be saved and to be a Christian. May God enable us to set our eyes on this glorious truth and to set aside the worries and burdens of this life.