

THE NEW HAS COME

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Central Idea: We are called to live in harmony with our new identity. Are you living in harmony with your new creation?

Introduction:

What a test for a new year! When Paul wrote these words, he was thinking back to that moment in his life when old things passed away and all things became new. This experience, this spiritual transformation, was so revolutionary that he employed unusual language to describe it. As we study the context, we are reminded that it is “out with the old and in with the new.”

I. The Termination of the Self Life, vv. 14-15

1. The extinguishing of the old self, v. 14; Galatians 2:20
2. The relinquishing of the new self, v. 15; Galatians 2:20

II. The Introduction of the Faith Life, vv. 16-17

1. A new perspective of man, vv. 15-16
2. A new creation of man, v. 17; Galatians 3:28

III. The Operation of the Christ Life, vv. 18-21

1. A world to reach, vv. 18-19, 21
2. A word to preach, vv. 19-20; 2 Corinthians 10:1
Romans 1:16

Conclusion:

Verse 21 is one of the great verses proclaiming the unbelievable love of God. In exchange for our sins, Jesus offers to give us His perfect righteousness—that is when we place our faith in Him, He credits our spiritual bank accounts with His own perfection. The theological term for this transaction is *imputation*. When you believe in Jesus as your substitutionary atonement, your sin is imputed (or credited) to Christ, and His righteousness is imputed to you. This is the glorious exchange that the gospel offers to everyone who will receive it. And this is the good news of which Christians are ambassadors.