

New Things (Part 2)

1 Peter 1:3-5

Introduction:

Several new things in the Bible draw us to God.

A new covenant defines our relationship with God.

A new way to approach God defines our worship of God.

A new birth defines how each person is to be saved.

More new things come to those who draw near to God.

IV. The New Testament Speaks of New Creatures.

A new creature is a person who has undergone a new birth and is in the kingdom of God, the church.

2 Corinthians 5:17 affirms, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

A person gets into Christ by being "baptized into Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:3).

Those who have been "baptized into Christ have clothed [themselves] with Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

"By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Those who have been born again, have been baptized putting "on the new man (new self), which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth" (Ephesians 4:24), and this new self "is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him" (Colossians 3:10).

Those who have put on the new man are new creatures who must walk in the newness of life (Romans 6:4).

While walking in the newness of life, the new creature follows the instruction of 1 Corinthians 5:7.

"Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed."

A new creature cuts out the bad things from his/her past living.

While continuing to live in the Savior, who gave them a fresh start.

Therefore, the new creatures set their affections on things above (Colossians 3:1 and 2).

V. The Bible Declares that God's People Wear a New Name.

God often changed the name of those who belonged to Him.

He changed Abram's name to Abraham, saying "For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations" (Genesis 17:5).

God changed Sarai's name to Sarah saying, "I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her" (Genesis 17:15).

He changed Jacob's name to Israel saying, "you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed" (Genesis 32:28).

God's people were to be called by a new name.

They would lose their shameful name of the past and receive a new name.

Isaiah 62:2 says, "The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name Which the mouth of the LORD will designate."

Isaiah 62:12 reveals they would be called “The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD.”

Many rabbis and teachers had disciples, but Christ had disciples who were called after His name.

“For an entire year (Barnabas and Saul) met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11:26).

Agrippa almost became a Christian (Acts 26:28), but the suffering that Christians face deters some from taking the new name.

Peter said, “If anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name” (1 Peter 4:16).

Salvation is in no other name than the name of Christ.

Acts 4:12 declares, “There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

The collected assembly of new creatures should wear the name of Christ because she is the church that belongs to Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33).

VI. Jesus Reveals a New Commandment.

This new commandment is a commandment of love.

In John 13:34 Jesus commanded that His disciples love one another as He has loved us.

This was not the first time that love was enjoined.

Leviticus 19:18 commanded that God’s people love their neighbor as themselves.

The commandment to love one another was “from the beginning” (2 John 5).

What made this commandment new was the depth of such love.

Ephesians 5:25 speaks of Christ’s love for the church, the new creatures wearing His name, when it says He “gave Himself up for her (v. 26) so that He might sanctify (set apart) her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...”

Transformed lives of converts and new creatures shout about the effectiveness of God’s grace revealed in the new covenant (2 Corinthians 3:6).

The deep love for one another revealed in a new commandment proves we belong to Christ.

VII. The Bible Discloses New Heavens and a New Earth.

The expression “new heavens and a new earth” appears four times in the Bible.

Isaiah 65:17 speaks of it as a created place where “former things will not be remembered or come to mind.”

Isaiah 66:22 says that it will endure forever.

2 Peter 3:13 tells that “New heavens and a new earth” are a promise from God that we look for “in which righteousness dwells.”

John “saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer sea. And [he] saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:1 and 2).

Residence in the new heavens and earth will enjoy new associations (with God, Christ, the Angels of God, and all the redeemed).

In the new heavens and new earth, new songs will be sung.

“They sang a new song,” of praise to God for His wonderful work of redemption (Revelation 5:9-14).

Revelation 5:11 and 13 identify the singers as many angels, redeemed sinners, and every creature in heaven, on earth, in the sea, and under the earth.

A new song was sung before the throne that no one else could learn (Revelation 14:3).

Those in the new heavens and a new earth will have a new body.

The new body will be a spiritual one (1 Corinthians 15:44).

“Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable” (1 Corinthians 15:50).

The new heavens and a new earth will be in a new location (Revelation 21:2).

The current “heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat” (2 Peter 3:12)!

2 Peter 3:7 reveals, “By [the Lord’s] word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

v. 10 informs, “The day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”

The new heavens and a new earth will be a place where God’s people serve Him (Revelation 22:3).

Application:

[Read] 1 Peter 1:3-5

God the Father, “according to His great mercy,” gave us a new covenant to show us the new way to approach Him through the new birth.

By our response to His offer in Christ, we become new creatures, wearing a new name, and fulfilling a new commandment, so we can enter the new heavens and a new earth.

Conclusion:

If new things thrill us, we should prepare for heaven!

To prepare for heaven, we need to become new creatures, who live a new life in Christ, with a new and living hope!

Have you been born again, baptized, born of water and the Spirit?

Are you living for Christ?

Do you have the new and living hope that you will be raised just as Jesus Christ was, and obtain by it an inheritance that does not perish, become defiled, nor fade away?

If new things thrill you, “The best is yet to be!”