

NEW CREATIONS

2 Corinthians Chapter 5

So far, Paul's teaching has contrasted the very challenging experience of living for Christ with the very real experience of God's comfort and Presence through His Holy Spirit. He has shown that Christians can be like a letter from God and bring the fragrance of Jesus to everyone. This might smell of myrrh or of frankincense! We have learned that God our Father is transforming us into the likeness of His Son, Jesus. We look into a spiritual mirror and search for things that are like Jesus. We can discover that we can be satisfied, content with life and experience God's grace bring us complete sufficiency to live for Him in the world. This does mean a struggle. We discover that we are in a wrestling match within ourselves. In the world we find ourselves at odds with politics, religion and society. We pray for peaceful lives and the ability to live peaceably with everyone. Paul makes it clear that the world is against the success of the Gospel.

We are encouraged to live in Truth, Love and Light. We honour Jesus Christ, the image of God. We look ordinary but God displays His extraordinary power in us.

RESURRECTION

What will our bodies be like. Will we recognise each other? Father God knows us by name, We will receive new names. I guess there will be recognition. Paul emphasises that we are undergoing a transformation that will end up with us being like Jesus Christ. The term "glory" is used.

The word used is METAMORPHOO - which is used directly into English to describe the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly! In 1 Corinthians 15:52, Paul uses a different word, ALASSO, which describes a complete change - from one thing to another.

LOOKING ON THE HEART

We will have to stand before Jesus about our lives under His reign. Praise God He look at the heart. Sometimes our motives are good but it comes out wrong!

However, we should not make excuses but aim higher "next time"

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Already? God sees what we will be. We get glimpses of this. We have the potential to be like Jesus. We have His Holy Spirit as inspiration and guarantee. We are not called to be miserable but joyful about self-control and able to be less self centred. Makes life so much better to be giving!



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