

“A New Creation”
2 Corinthians 5:14 – 21

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Our text for this Fourth Sunday in Lent is from St. Paul’s second-letter to the Corinthians and is read as follows: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...”* This serves as the basis for this evening’s / morning’s meditation, in Jesus Name. Amen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We like new things, don’t we? We like to have new cars, new toys, new clothes and even new shoes. In fact, we want to have it all, don’t we? We want to have all the new gadgets that are available—an ipod, an ipad, and even an iPhone. We might even want a new house, a cabin, or winter get-a-way home. We like it, don’t we, as long as its brand spanking new?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a new you? How it would be to take the old you and trade it in for a new and improve you? Out with the old and in with the new—sounds inviting doesn’t it? You see, that’s what Jesus has done. He has taken the old you, molded you, refined you, and has made you a new creation—nothing like the old one. He has re-created you, taking your old self and making it new. He has made you a new creation!

Now, you may not see yourself as a new creation because of the same old sins that you keep doing, but truth be told you are a new creation. God says so! There are times, many times, when you or I might get angry, hotheaded, and even hot tempered, but still we are a new creation. There are other times when we are self-centered and selfish, only concerned with ourselves. But St. Paul says: “know this; despite what you may think, you are indeed a new creation in Christ. We are a new creation in Christ because we have been given a new heart, new eyes, and a new life.

You see, God has given to each of us a new heart. He has created in us a clean heart and a new, right spirit. He has done this so that you and I may know that He loves us dearly and that we may have joy in our salvation. That’s why Christ died on the cross; He died on the cross to save you, to save me, and to give us a new heart, one that beats for other people. The Lord wants us to be committed, obedient as it were to Him. He wants us to serve, worship and give Him continual praise, all the days of our life. He wants us to put Him first and foremost in our lives. The Lord has given us a new heart so that we might be His disciples and to share in His eternal blessings.

That’s why we were given a new heart, in order that we may love others just as Christ loves us.

Saint Paul says, “You are indeed a new creation in Christ.” You are a new creation because God has given you a new set of eyes--to see what He has done for you. You have been given new eyes by God so that you may see the glory of His Son Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12 says: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” God has given you and me a new set of eyes to see that salvation that He has been won and given to us, by Christ on the cross. You are a new creation because you have been forgiven of all your sins.

That is why you were given new eyes, so that you may see the power, the glory and the salvation God gives to you and to me through Christ Jesus, our only Lord and Savior.

Paul says once again: “You are indeed a new creation in Christ; because we have been given a new life to live.” By his death, and resurrection you and me have been given a new life to live. In other words, we have been given a second chance in life to live the life that Jesus wants us to live. He wants us to live joyful in the knowledge that He is both Lord and Savior—Not only in this life but in the life to come.

St. Paul reminds us in Romans chapter 6, particular verse four, that we were buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we to may live a new life.

Paul says: “Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is.

My dear friends—you are a new person by faith in Christ Jesus. You are loved and forgiven by Christ. You are reconciled to God through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now live your life according to His glory, and honor His holy Name in all that you say and do. Don’t be complacent and ignorant—for Christ has given you a new heart, new eyes and a new life, so go and use them to serve Him in His kingdom, and to tell others of His mighty deeds, in His Name. Amen!

And now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus, so that you may use your new heart, new eyes and your new life to serve Him, unto life everlasting. Amen!