

## Jesus Makes All Things “New”

**New heavens and new earth, Rev.21:1-8**, especially **v.5**. I don't want (and am sick of hearing about) “**the new normal**,” I want all things “**new**” in **Christ Jesus!** But the *newness* of this passage is **after** this “*earth passed away*”- thus the *hereafter* rather than the *here and now*.

**New things have come, 2Cor.5:17**. But being a “*new creature*” and “*in Christ*” (you can't be one without the other) means “*new things have come*”- not necessarily a *new/better* job, paycheck, car, or house, but a *new Lord/Savior* and thus a *new life* in Him; a *new family* to love and care for; and *new future* for the “*the old things passed away*” (more on this later).

**To have the new, we have to let go of the old, Eph.4:17-24**. Therefore, I/we have to:

- **Change the way we walk, v.17a; cf. 2:2; 5:1-2**. Are you ready for a *new walk*?
- **Change the way we think, vv.17b-18**; no longer in *futility* and with *darkened understanding* and *ignorance*, which excluded you from *the (new!) life of God*; not with *empty words* and *darkness*, but with *light, learning* (Eph.5:6-10), and *understanding* (Eph.3:3-5). Are you ready to *think* differently, cf. Prov.23:7?
- **Lay aside the old, corrupted self** with its *lusts of deceit*, **vv.19-20**; aren't sick and tired (or tired and sick!) of the world's *callousness, sensuality, impurity, and greed*, cf. 2:3? Are you ready to *lay aside* the *old self* which was so *corrupted* by the world?
- **Learn Christ** by *hearing* and being *taught truth in Him*, **v.21**; we don't get a *new life in Christ* by listening/hearing/learning *the world*, but *His Word*, Rom.10:17; we are not *taught* to live a *new life* by looking *within ourselves* or *our own hearts*, but by looking *to and within* Jesus, Heb.12:2! Are you ready to *hear, be taught, and learn* differently?
- **Be renewed** (*ananeo-* to make *new* and *different* with the implication of *superior*); to be renewed/returned to its former state of the image of God, Gen1:26; Col.3:10; this *renewal* starts in the **mind** with a decision and commitment; determination (most people fail to change primarily for one reason: they won't let go of the past, cf. 2Cor.7:10);
- **Put on the new self**; like God; *created* in and consisting of *righteousness* and *holiness*, v.24.

**This renewal results in a new:**

- ⇒ **Perspective-** a *spiritual/God first* one; not based on who *lives* or *dies*, but Him who is *risen*, Eph.5:8-9;
- ⇒ **Hope-** not just to “live long and prosper” or even to “happy” (here), but *eternal peace, rest, and joy* in fellowship with God, Eph.1:12,18; 2:12; 4:4;
- ⇒ **Motivation-** to be *pleasing to* and *glorifying* Him, cf. Eph.5:10; 1:6,12,14;
- ⇒ **Life-** both here and hereafter, Eph.1:18-21.