

The New Creation in Christ Jesus (continued)

A key purpose of the Apostle Paul (and the Holy Spirit) was/is to convince us of the reality of the new creation within EVERY BELIEVER. We began with a major declaration of such in 2Cor. 5:17:

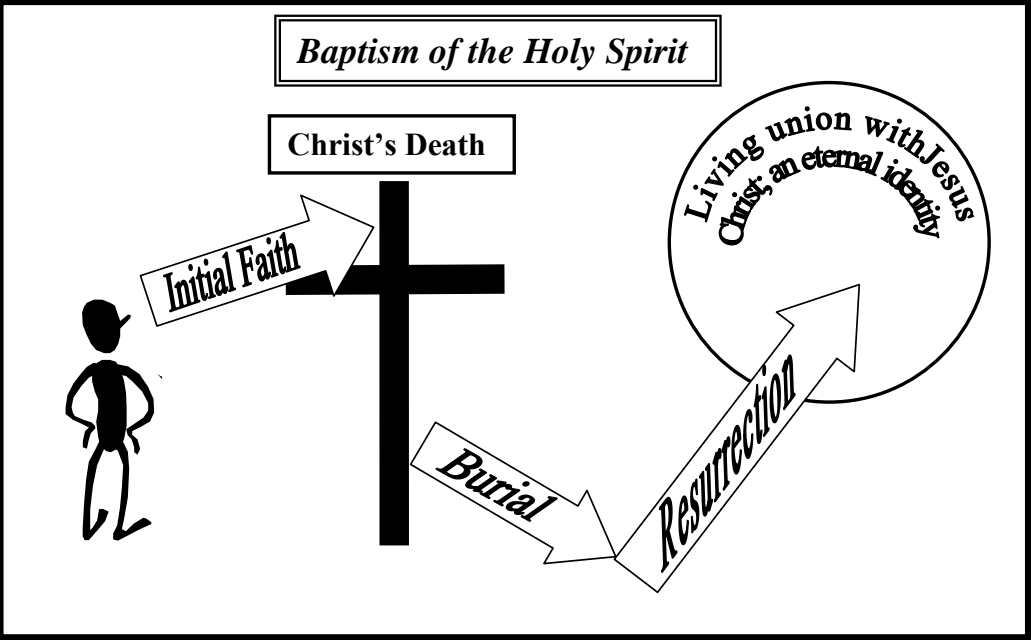
^{NKJ} 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Just a brief review of the 2 major emphases of our previous sessions:

- 1. The _____ of the New Creation is to be _____.

1Cor. 12:12-13 describes our entry into the ONE-SPIRITUAL-BODY of Christ; see also Romans 6:3-4.

The Figure Below Illustrates the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; A New Testament Doctrine



The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the act of God the Holy Spirit whereby He brings the believer at the point of initial faith in Christ into living union with the resurrected Savior; this involves identifying the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is a once-for-all act that can never be abrogated; the living union will never end!

- 2. The new creation is totally spiritual and is called:
 - A new man (as opposed to the old), Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10.
 - The hidden man of the heart, 1Pet. 3:3-4.

- The inner man, 2Cor. 4:16.
- The new creation, 2Cor. 5:17.

My goal in this session is to emphasize the necessity of the new creation and to reaffirm its reality (via an exposition of John 3).

John 3 Nicodemus: An Object Lesson Illustrating The Necessity of the New Creation

Critical Observations

1. V.10, Nicodemus was the most _____ teacher in Israel's Sanhedrin in Jesus' day, yet _____ of the necessity of being born from above ("born again," v.3 in KJV).
2. It is to a _____ that Jesus broaches the subject of "being born-again." The Apostles including Paul do not use these terms: Paul speaks of "regeneration" in Titus 3:5. "Born again" has become a buzz word in our generation.
3. Jesus was a master _____ when witnessing: EVERY BELIEVER SHOULD HAVE A STRATEGY FOR WITNESSING.
4. A basic general strategy for witnessing:
 - KEEP THE FOCUS ON JESUS, THE CHRIST, the Messiah.
 - WHO WAS HE? How do we know?
 - WHY DID HE COME? How do we know?
 - DID HE _____ HIS PURPOSE?
 - Is He and He alone God's total answer to our sin issue?
 - Have you so placed your faith, your trust for complete forgiveness of sins?

Reminder: when we meet Charlie Brown, he has just so done and is now a new creation in Christ Jesus, a babe, a new born one in whom all things have become new.