

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:5

Store In My Heart

Acts 26:28

Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

As Paul gave his defense before Agrippa he spoke of Jesus and his own conversion. He spoke of his mission to proclaim Christ as salvation through the resurrection for both Jew and Gentile. When he asked Agrippa if he believed the Prophets he received the above reply.

Agrippa understood where belief in the Prophets and Paul's message would lead him. Acting on such belief in obedience would make him a Christian, one who follows the teachings of the Christ.

God's plan for our salvation has never been hard to understand. The biggest hurdle as always been our willingness to submit. If you will submit, God's plan will do the same today. Just as Agrippa knew it would, if he were persuaded.



A New Creation

Ulysses Buckley

We learn from **Genesis 1:1** that, *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* He separated the water from the land; He set the sun, the moon and stars in their places. He created all of the plants and animals. Of each of these God saw that it was good.

The Lord made man in His own image and likeness and set him to have dominion over all that He had made. **Genesis 1:31** says, *"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."*

The Lord God set mankind in the garden and set forth for them a standard, telling them that if they deviated that they would surely die.

We learn also from the book of Genesis that mankind, which God had created in His own image, disobeyed God and indeed deviated from the standard God had set forth. They turned from following God's standard to following their own. Man turn away from God to the point that in **Genesis 6:5**, we read, *"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."* What was once very good had become very bad. God's creation had become marred.

In **Jeremiah 18** we read how God sent the prophet down to the potter's house to observe as he made something at the wheel. Notice **verses 3-6**, *"Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in*

the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me saying: 'O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?' says the lord. 'Look as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.'

God was not content to leave mankind in this condition of being marred. To remedy this situation, The Lord moved to make a 'New Creation'. Peter tells us in **2Peter 3:9** that God is "...longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

God is making the new creation in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote in **2Corinthians 5:17**, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new". Also in **Ephesians 2:8-10**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand that we should walk in them."

Those who are in Christ are the New Creation. Let us demonstrate our newness in day to day living in the works He has created us for.

(The "new man" of Colossians 3 and "born again" phrase we read of elsewhere are both a reference to this New Creation. Paul's "adoption as sons" is another but "new creation" emphasizes more the idea of blanking out and starting over seen in the story of the potter. This is what has been done for us through Christ. DLH)

For Our Information

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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Bill Venable is still dealing with some restrictions as he recovers from his surgery. He is doing pretty well in his recovery.

Jim Gray is still dealing with coughing and congestion. **Annette Gray** was sick earlier in the week and is now doing much better.

Dan & JoBeth Henderson are also doing much better.

Gloria Hurst will start radiation treatments in mid January.

Paula Laubach is considering information from the neurosurgeon about her condition as she makes a decision on surgery.

Merrill & Cindi Berryhill are both recovering from covid.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler's son-in-law, **Kyle Smith** has covid.

David & Paula Laubach's daughter, **Deana** was to have emergency surgery for stomach problems late Saturday evening.

Sunday Evening - **Esther 2:21**. Wednesday - **2Peter 1:12**.

Dan has login information for the building wifi network.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

