

Searching the Scriptures / 40 / Living By Grace For God’s Glory / Part 5

Our discussion today will examine three attributes of those who have received grace:

1. A New Man
2. A New Destination
3. A New Song

A New Man

In 2 Cor 5:17 we find these words, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* The words “new man” are found in three verses, and in each we can see various aspects of that expression. What exactly is the “new man”? Eph 2:15 explains, *“Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace...”* God is teaching that regardless of a person’s ethnic, cultural, or religious background he becomes a “new man” when God saves him and makes “peace” between them. What kind of peace? This verse explains that Christ establishes a new relationship between that individual and God, where previously hatred or enmity existed. Hence Christ is called a Mediator in 1 Tim 2:5 for example: *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...”*

We also learn from Eph 4:24 that the “new man” is *“created in righteousness and true holiness”*, like God Himself: *“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”* Indeed, the child of God has been clothed with the very righteousness and holiness of Christ Himself. Thus the “new man” can only be referring to a person’s soul, which is where salvation initially takes place. This is an astounding concept that mortal, sinful, depraved man could become as holy and pure as His Creator; and yet God has instituted this requirement in order for man to inhabit Heaven.

Another attribute of the “new man” is found in Col 3:10 which declares, *“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him...”* As one becomes a Christian, he is exposed to a new realm of “knowledge” that can only be found in the Bible and can only be properly understood as God the Holy Spirit teaches him. Col 1:10 declares, *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God...”*

A New Destination

The final destination for the believer is to be married to the Lord Jesus Christ, as part of the eternal Bride of Christ in the New Heavens and New Earth. Perhaps you are familiar with 2 Pet 3:10, which outlines the final moments of our present universe: *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”* In light of this fact it is healthy to ask ourselves, *“Am I really living my life to the glory of God?”*

Even in the Old Testament we read in Isa 65:17, *“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”* From this statement we understand the result of God’s wiping away all sorrow and tears from our memory banks. In 2 Pet 3:13 we find another reference to it: *“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”* We’re not surprised that God should introduce the concept of “righteousness” in the New Heavens and New Earth, since the inhabitants of that eternal kingdom have to be as righteous as God Himself, as they will be married to the Living, Triune God of the Bible forever.

A New Song

Psa 40:3 says, *“And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”* Rev 15:3 declares, *“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”*

What is this “song” that God has placed on the lips of all Christians? Rev 5:9 affirms, *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation...”* Rev 5:5 uses very similar language, *“And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals.”*

The Greek word for “prevailed” is the same word as “overcome”, as is found in Rev 3:21, *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne”*. This new song also underscores the vital role of obedience – the essence of love – which forms the basis for a Christian’s new-found desire to follow the Scriptures in thought, word, and deed. John 14:15 asserts, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”*

May God give us the grace to continually thank him for His blessings, remembering His greatest blessing – that of being delivered from eternity in Hell. May He incline our hearts to live sacrificially for Him.