

We are New Creations – Message 3

- Who you are in Christ is one of, if not the, single greatest revelations you can ever have in your spiritual life
- The Bible speaks of our relationship with Jesus in so many different ways; in fact, when referring to who we are and what we have in Christ, there are over 140 verses describing our relationship with Him
 - These verses use phrases like: in Him, with Him, by Him, in Whom, through Whom...
 - What do these phrases mean or reveal to us?
 - This shows us that Jesus has not only come to live in us, but grant us access to everything He is and has
 - How many of you have a favorite somebody, like a baseball or basketball player, singer or anyone like that?
 - What do you think it would be like to be able to hang with them for a week?
 - Because we are “in Christ”, this shows us that these verses describe things that we could not have, could not do or could not be without being in Him
 - Example of remembering things during tests
 - *John 15:5-8*
 - How is the branch able to bear fruit? What happens when the branch is severed from the vine?
 - What does the number of verses tell us?
 - This signifies the importance of this principle to our lives; it is the foundation of our relationship to the Lord because it is never about what we can do by ourselves, but what we can do in Him
 - The number of verses signifies the wealth of our inheritance as a child of God
 - *Romans 8:16-17*: what is an heir? What is a joint heir? If we are equal heirs with Christ, what does that mean?

○ *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

- This is one of the most important and well-known passages of the Bible because it gives describes several aspects of who we are in Christ
- The phrase “new creation” is extremely important; the literal meaning is “a new species of being that never existed before that moment”
- The old person we once were on the inside is completely eliminated and the person we are now is a totally new formation with a brand new spirit, *without spot or blemish, just like Jesus*
- Next, this passage describes our being in Christ by telling us that we have been reconciled to God through Christ; reconcile means “to change, exchange or to return to favor with”
- Not only have we been provided the avenue to return back to favor with God, but the same verse tells us what we are to do with that new favor: *each of God’s children have been given the ministry of reconciliation*
- What does this mean? Isn’t ministry only for preachers and teachers?
- All of God’s children are called to be instruments or tools that He can use to bring others into the light of God’s grace and salvation; it is the same way a laborer would use a tool in his toolbox in order to complete a certain assignment; we are all to be tools that God can use, whenever, wherever and however He chooses
- None of us have to be preachers or teachers in order to tell someone else that God loves them and is not holding their sins against them
- This is a ministry that all of us have, no matter how young or old; we are all called by God to let His light shine through us, whether it is at school, on the job, at a restaurant or wherever He chooses to use us
- Finally, verse 21 describes the right-standing we have with God because we have been born again
- The key phrase to pay attention to here is “the righteousness of God in Him”; this shows us that God’s very nature was put inside us; because we are in Christ, the same spotless and blameless nature that Jesus has is in us right now, allowing us to be in His presence daily the same way Jesus is and receive all that He has provided for us

- One of the primary ways that our faith in God and in His Word has expression is through our confession of faith on a daily basis
 - Romans 10:9-10
 - When confession is spoken of here, it would be easy to assume that it refers to the confession of our sins before God, but that is not the case
 - What Paul talks about here is an individual person confessing their belief that Jesus is Lord and Savior of all people
 - Genesis 1:26-27
 - What is it that causes our words to have power? How can our words create the life we end up living?
 - The reason our words have power is because during creation, God said that man was to be made in His image and likeness, meaning that when we speak, the words we speak create the environment we live in just like God's words created the world in the beginning
 - The words we speak and their direct impact on our lives is one of the greatest revelations in the Word of God
 - The words we speak shape the world we live in and the quality of life we experience
 - James 3:1-8
 - This passage shouts to us the massive impact and creative force that our words carry
 - James tells believers here that when we have control over our tongue or the words we speak, we are able to control our whole body and it is an indicator of our ability to let our spirit rule our mouth (*Proverbs 16:32*)
 - This means that if we can get to the point that we always think before we speak, rather than just letting anything come out of our mouths, we can rule over bodies by not letting it fall prey to sickness, disease, or any other attack of the devil
 - In verse 3, controlling the words of our mouth is compared to putting a bit in a horse's mouth; this illustration is used because the same way a person controls a horse and has it go in the direction he desires, our tongue is what guides the direction of our lives

- Through the words we speak, we shape the atmosphere of our lives; it determines whether we walk in and experience blessing or cursing, health or sickness, prosperity or poverty, joy or depression and so on
- If we desire to walk in the blessings of the Lord, we must make sure the words we speak point us in the direction of God's path for each of our lives

○ *Mark 11:23*

- In this verse, the word say is mentioned 3 times and believe only once; this shows us that the emphasis is being placed on what we speak
- We must develop the habit of being aware of what we speak to the point that even when we want to lash out at a person or say something we know we shouldn't, we have the strength to keep our tongue from speaking it and say nothing instead
- So much of the key to the mountain being removed from our lives is speaking the right words to the mountain, which only comes from developing the habit of speaking the Word of God to the mountain rather than speaking based out of feelings or circumstances
- Even though we may study the Word of God and believe God will do what He has promised, we must still develop the discipline of watching over our mouths so that when we speak to the mountains of life, we are speaking what we desire to see happen

○ Hebrews 4:14

- The next reason the confession of our mouth is critical to our relationship with the Lord is because now that Jesus has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven, He is now the great High Priest of our confession
- This means that Jesus carefully listens to the words that we speak because He is responsible for making sure that the words we speak in faith come to pass
- Having Jesus as the personal guarantee over our words of faith should motivate us to put a guard over our lips because if we know what we say, either positive or negative, will eventually produce in our lives, we should want what the Lord has rather than the enemy's attacks

- He is the personal guarantee that when we speak in faith, it will surely come to pass; all we must do is know what the Word of God says concerning our situation, speak the desired result and then let God bring the manifestation to pass
 - However, any words we speak that are not in faith, but rather in anger, ignorance, or emotion, give the enemy permission to do in our lives whatever we have spoken, such as sickness, financial lack, depression, or anything else we do not want in life
- Now that we have talked about the importance of our words and how they affect our lives, we need to look at Jesus' life and see how His words affected not only His life but ours as well
 - Jesus was very bold in His statements when he spoke to His disciples as well as to people like the Pharisees, the scribes and other prominent people
 - In *John 14:9*, Phillip asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father; he was intending on the Father being physically manifested among them, but he didn't really know what he was asking
 - Jesus then says, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father."
 - He tells Phillip that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him, meaning that Jesus and the Father are one and that any works that Jesus did while on the Earth were done because of the Father dwelling in Him
 - Another example of Jesus' bold speech is found in John 16:28
 - Here, Jesus declares to the disciples that He came to the Earth directly from the Father and after His death, burial and resurrection, He will return again to sit at the right hand of God
 - It is statements like this that were the reason the Pharisees, scribes and others said that Jesus should be put to death because they thought that anyone who would declare such things was blaspheming against God
 - In spite of their ignorance, Jesus spoke such statements among them because it was the truth, and because He not only spoke the truth but also was the truth, we can live lives of freedom and power among everyone today