

A New Creation

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Do you judge the content of a book by its cover? Are you free today?

Situation: Paul is in prison, a dim, dank, dark and dirty place. Paul was awaiting his opportunity to answer for his crimes (preaching in the name of Jesus Christ). And it was in this place that Paul wrote this letter to the church in Corinth. A prisoner of man but an ambassador of/for Christ.

Observation: Can you imagine encouraging others while you are suffering. Paul provided hope for those who were physically free but spiritually bound. Although Paul was physically bound and locked away, he was spiritually free. Paul had hope in the word of God that if his earthly house (his body) was destroyed, he had another home not made by hands (2 Corinthians 5:1). He was encouraging the church not to act and respond by the ways of their old nature but to take on the new nature of Christ.

Inspiration: You may be suffering something physically, emotionally, spiritual or mentally. And it may be easy to deal with situations or others by old habits or familiar actions. But who you use to be is not who you are. God can still use you if you open yourself to his Word and his Will for your life. God promise not to remember our sins once he has forgiven us. God has given his son that we may have an abundant, eternal life. If you invite Jesus into your life, he will give you the Holy Spirit to help strengthen you. And you don't have to respond to things the way you use to respond because you are a new creation in Christ.

Application: Take the time to read 2 Corinthians the 5 chapter and be encouraged that your suffering & trials are not to break you but to mold and shape you to be a strong witness for Christ. For those seeking a relationship with God read the scriptures below. And as you read the word, and you accept Christ, remember you are made New in Christ. Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.



2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (KJV)

Creation Definition: the action or process of bringing something into existence. --- -- "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. *Romans 6:6 (KJV)*

Exploration:

God's Forgiveness

- **Hebrews 8:12**- For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.
- **Isaiah 43:25**- I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.
- **1 John 1:9** - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God Restores

- **Psalms 23:3**- He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- **Psalms 51:12** - Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Hope

- **Isaiah 26:3** - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.
- **Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
- **Psalms 34:17-18** - The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
¹⁸ The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Holy Spirit

- **John 14:26-27**- But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**- Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.
- **Acts 1:8**- But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.