

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2
(Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; Revelation 21:1-5)
“In Christ a New Creation”

Introduction

Once again, at the start of another year, we are faced with a choice: whether we will view life and live it from a merely human perspective, as if God were not there, or as if he were silent in the face of our deepest questions and longings, or whether instead we will view life and live it in the light of his promises given by his apostles and prophets who sealed their testimony with their blood.

In Ecclesiastes, the man whom the Bible describes as the wisest, richest and most powerful man of his age, warns us of the result of viewing things from a merely human perspective. In the Revelation, the apostle John calls us to lift our gaze to the future offered by God to those who love and trust him. In 2 Corinthians, the apostle Paul presses the lesson home, telling us what a life-transforming difference it should make, not merely in the future but this very day, if we have begun to view life and live it in the light of God's promise to make all things new.

Body

- 1. Human destiny apart from God: Nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1).**
- 2. Human destiny in the light of God's promise: All things new (Revelation 21).**
- 3. Living today in the light of that promise: A new creation (2 Corinthians 5).**

Conclusion

What will you do with this? How will you face the new year? As just another year, doomed to be like every other, leading at last to old age, forgetfulness, decrepitude and death, or another new beginning, mercies new every day, the wonder of walking through these days in intimate communion with the Lord of life, seeking to make known to those around us the wonder of his grace, his power to forgive us, to reconcile us to himself and to each other, the power to give us new eyes to see the glory of creation, new ears to hear him speak his love, new hands to do the work he gives us each new day, new heart, new mind, and an imperishable inheritance, awaiting the day when at last he makes all things new? Which will be the banner over your life: “Vanity of vanities, there is nothing new under the sun”? Or, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come”? May the One who will one day say, “Behold, I make all things new!” begin his work of re-creation in your life and mine in these first days of this new year.

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