

A New You

By Ron Bartanen

How would you like a brand new you in this New Year of 2020? Such is not an unreasonable desire or possibility. In fact, it is God's intent to eventually "make all things new" in the "new heavens and new earth" (Rev. 21:5, 1). Until that time, the Lord is preparing a people who are said to be "born again ... of water and the Spirit" (John 3:3, 5).

In the process of the new birth, we become children of God and receive the Spirit of Christ, entitling us to address God as our Father (Gal. 4:6). A truly new you is not through New Years resolutions, but only in Christ: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away... all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Newness of life is not found in just being a good neighbor, a good husband or wife, or a respectable person, or even in just being religious. Jesus expressed His purpose in coming into this world when He told His disciples, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The gospel (good news) by which we receive this life centers upon Jesus' dying upon the cross for our sins, being buried, and raised to life, as witnessed to us through His apostles (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The apostle Paul also made it plain that this justification is available to us through faith in Christ, saying, "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). Justification by faith involves repentance and baptism, coming forth from the watery grave of baptism into "newness of life" (Rom. 6:1-6).

Mere New Year's resolutions will not accomplish this, but a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, the Son of God in faith and obedience to His word, as Peter explained it: "Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit... being born again...by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." (1 Pet. 1:22-23). Have you yet received this new life?

Ronald Bartanen preaches for the church of Christ, Arthur, IL

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Tom

Song Leader: Ray

Opening Hymn:

573—I Shall Not Be Moved

Opening Prayer

Mark

Hymn:

437—Where Could I Go?

Scripture Reading:

Larry

2 Corinthians 5:12-19

Hymn:

286—Olive's Brow

Lord's Supper:

Dale & Ryan

Hymn:

653—Sing and Be Happy

Sermon: Tom

Invitation Hymn:

73—The Lord's My Shepherd

Closing Hymn:

50—He Leadeth Me

Closing Prayer:

Gary

PRAYER LIST

- *Nina was hospitalized last week with acute anemia.
- *Cindy was not feeling well last week.
- *Gary & Cindy's daughter-in-law has gestational diabetes.
- *Juanita's sister Betty.
- *Dale's friend Melissa was hospitalized recently for headaches.
- *Mary and her family.
- *Nina's brother, James.
- *Robert and Sara
- *Pat and Ron. Pat is now at home.
- *Juanita and her family.
- *Larry and Ruth
- *Dale, his mother and his cousin Jayna and her family. His friend Zarna and her family.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- *Our congregation

CALENDAR

- Dec. 29—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 29—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Jan. 2—b. Carl
- Jan. 5—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Jan. 5—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Jan. 5—Business Meeting
- Jan. 12—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Jan. 12—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Jan. 12—Potluck
- Jan. 19—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Jan. 19—Worship 11 am & 6 pm

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Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 5:12-19

ACCORDING	AGAIN	ANSWER	APPEARANCE
BECAUSE	BEHALF	BESIDE	BOAST
CHRIST	COMMEND	COMMITTED	COMPELS
FLESH	GIVEN	HEART	HIMSELF
IMPUTING	JESUS	JUDGE	KNOWN
LONGER	MINISTRY	OPPORTUNITY	OURSELVES
RECONCILIATION	REGARD	SHOULD	SOUND
THEIR	THEMSELVES	THEREFORE	THINGS
THROUGH	TRESPASSES		

D T H E T R E E C E F B F O R T K E
 E I F A R N Y S C O E L O N R E N I
 T S I N E C A N U H M S E A H S O R
 T I S T S H A N A A H M E S O E W I
 I S A N P R E L S O C H E U M W N C
 M R E A A G F T U W I E N N O I N O
 M O L E S N D L T H E D B I D N H U
 O G P S S I D H A V E R B O A S T R
 C P P A E D O P P O R T U N I T Y S
 A S S E S R G N I T U P M I D A E E
 Y W A Y B O S R E G A R D E H V R L
 R E C O N C I L I A T I O N L E O V
 T O L D A C S L E N L R T E C D F E
 S U S E J A H G I P E F S T H I E S
 I J U D G E I A N G M M L H R S R N
 N T H R O U G H N I E O G E I E E S
 I H A V E A B O E H H C C I S B H O
 M N E V I G L M T E N T E R T H T W

Hidden Message: _____, _____, _____
 _____, _____, _____
 _____, _____, _____
 _____, _____, _____

Answer to Puzzle: Therefore, if anyone is in
 Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed
 away; behold, all things have become new.

“Even a stopped clock is right twice every day. After some years, it can boast of a long series of successes.” Marie von Ebner

SUNDAY: Bible Class — 10:00 am; Worship — 11:00 am; Evening — 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 pm
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E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com
Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com