

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

(2 Corinthians 5.17)



Christian experience is no new thing in itself, for believers have been discovering the good things that God promises in His word for many centuries. However, when we first turn to God and believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, we become 'new creatures' and begin to find many things that are completely new to us.

The forgiveness of sin

This is a completely new experience for those who turn to God for salvation. God promises to forgive the sins of all who believe in Christ, and as soon as we do believe we can be sure of true forgiveness for the first time in our lives. As 'new creatures' we have nothing to fear because we know that Christ, in His death on the cross, has died for us and in our place, removing all the penalty due to us from God's broken law.

A new beginning

To turn to Christ is to begin a new life. We tend to make so many mistakes in life and they cause us great problems and can bring us so much pain. When we turn to Christ He has a wonderful way of straightening us out, as long as we are prepared to live in obedience to His word. Of course, we may have to live with some of the consequences of our old lives, but God gives us comfort and strength, the like of which we will never have had before. It really is like beginning again as a 'new creature'.

A new relationship

As 'new creatures' we have a new relationship with God Himself to enjoy. No longer is He a distant, vague figure, and someone that we fear and dread. He is our Father in heaven now, and we can confidently come to Him, knowing He loves us more than we can understand. He teaches us His ways through His word and loves to hear us as we pray. He builds us up in faith, leads us through all the difficulties of life and corrects us if ever we go astray.

A new character

When we believe in Christ we are not given new personalities, but we do change! God becomes the central figure in our hearts and lives, and we want to follow His will. We begin to develop a new character that becomes more and more like Christ's.

A new purpose in life

No longer do we live just for the moment, as though that is all that matters, nor do we go on living as though we are here in this world for ever. As 'new creatures' we live with heaven in our thoughts, because that is where we are destined to be for ever, and we can look forward to it with real certainty. After all, the sacrifice of Christ at the cross of Calvary is the guarantee of heaven for all who believe in Him.

New pleasures

Coming to faith in Christ introduces us to a whole new range of joys and pleasures, quite apart from the sheer joy of being right with God. There is the thrill of discovering the teachings of the Bible - what God is actually like, what He has been doing through the history of this world, and what He promises for the future. There is the joyful experience of Christian worship and prayer, and the joy of new friendships with other believers. Using our lives in the practical service of God is yet another way in which our lives can be filled with pleasure and fulfilment as 'new creatures'.

New to you?

If this is all new to you, and you would like to know more about being a 'new creature' through Christ, then come along to Providence Chapel. We hope to see you and will be glad to help you.