



**2017: Week 1**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

*"New Creations In Christ"*

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

"<sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (NASB).

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Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year is a wonderful time to set new goals for the upcoming months and year. On Sunday Johnnie preached from **2 Corinthians 5**, addressing the timely opportunity of looking forward into the new year. At the same time he reminded us of the importance of looking back at what the Lord has already done for each believer in Christ. If you have trusted in the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you are set apart by the Lord and designated as being "in Christ." Being "in Christ" is the most incredible privilege a person can ever have. The greatest part about being a part of such a group is that **God has done the work** in making one a part of it. The only thing a person can do to be "in Christ" and receive the benefits of being "in Christ" is to respond to the Lord's work in faith. By trusting Him and what Jesus accomplished on the cross, you are acknowledging that God has done the work in saving you. He has done the work in making you a **new creation**.

1. **READ 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

- Which of these verses stands out to you the most?
- How might the Lord be challenging you through these verses?

2. **READ Romans 6:1-14**

- Which of these verses stands out to you the most?
- How might the Lord be challenging you through these verses?

3. What are the various **threats** that prevent you from depending upon the Lord? What do you think the Lord wants you to do about them?

4. How might the Lord want you to deepen your dependence upon Him through **prayer** and **Scripture**?

On Johnnie referenced an online article by Stephen Altrogge entitled **5 Reasons to Read the Bible When You Feel Absolutely Nothing**. It is well worth your while to read the entire article. The citation used in Sunday's sermon included the following lines:

Reading God's Word is a loud statement that I need God. That I cannot survive on bread alone. That I'm not smart enough, strong enough, or clever enough to navigate this world apart from God. God has made it clear that spiritually speaking, only the weak survive. Sitting under God's word is a proclamation of my weakness, and that honors God."

Will you be weak enough to find your strength in the Lord this year?

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Thank You, Lord, for making me a **new creation in Christ**. You have done the work, and I trust you. Help me to grow, and please direct me toward areas where You can grow me. On my own I am weak, but in Your power I am strong. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.