

Things New and Old

by John Isaac Edwards

In the kingdom-parable section of Matthew, Jesus declared, “Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old” (Matthew 13:52). I’d like to call attention to some things new and old.

New Lump and Old Leaven. Paul addressed the church at Corinth, “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened....” (1 Corinthians 5:7). The Lord’s body is represented by bread, “For we being many are one bread, and one body...” (1 Corinthians 10:17). The Lord’s people are to be unleavened; not

pervaded by the corrupting influence of sin and error. The situation in Corinth was that leaven, in the form of fornication, had found its way among the brethren as one had his father’s wife (1 Corinthians 5:1). Such was to be “...taken away...” and “...put away...” (1 Corinthians 5:2, 13), “...that the spirit may be saved...” (1 Corinthians 5:5) and the church kept pure. “....Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?” (1 Corinthians 5:6).

New Testament and Old Testament. The Bible describes two testaments or covenants: the new and the old. A reading of 2 Corinthians 3:6-14 shows that “the old testament” (v. 14) has been “done away” (vv. 7,

11, 14) and “abolished” (v. 13) and “the new testament” (v. 6) “remaineth” (v. 11). The Hebrew writer penned, “In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away” (Hebrews 8:13). Thus, we are not subject to the law of Moses contained in the Old Testament, “...but under the law to Christ...” (1 Corinthians 9:21).

New Creature and Old Things Passed Away. Paul taught, “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). Observe this takes place “...in Christ Jesus...” (Galatians

6:16), “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...” (Ephesians 2:10). Galatians 3:27 tells how we get into Christ Jesus, where we become a new creature and old things are passed away: “...baptized into Christ...”

New Man and Old Man. The Ephesians were instructed, “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man...And that ye put on the new man...” (Ephesians 4:22-24). Likewise, the Colossians were reminded, “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man...” (Colossians 3:9-10). If you don't like

who you are, you can change that! How about becoming a new man? In baptism, you can bury the old man and rise to “... walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-6).

New Heaven and New Earth and Old Passed Away. The Scriptures teach this heaven and earth is temporary (Matthew 24:35; 2 Peter 3:10-12). Thus, we “...look for new heavens and a new earth...” (2 Peter 3:13). John said, “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away...” (Revelation 21:1).

New Year and Old Year. Many may plan to stay up late on New

Year's Eve and watch “the ball drop” as they count down and watch 2013 (the old year) give way to 2014 (the new year). 2013 will be history and what the new year holds only the Lord really knows. As some make New Year's Resolutions, it's a good time for making some resolutions of a spiritual nature to be carried out: to be a Christian, to be restored, to attend all the services of the church, to teach others, to win one to the Lord, to be given to hospitality, to do more visiting and the like.

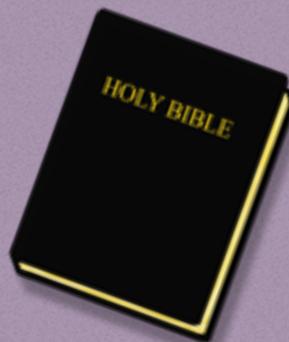
It's been a pleasure writing these pages in 2013. We look forward to the opportunities 2014 may bring, and wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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