

NEW THINGS

John Isaac Edwards

With a new year before us, it is a good time to call attention to some new things. The word “new” occurs 150 times in 131 verses in my Bible. Jesus said, “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**” (Mt. 13:52).

1) **NEW NAME.** Isaiah prophesied, “And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a **new name**, which the mouth of the Lord shall name” (Is. 62:2). This name is also described in Isaiah 56:5 and 65:15. The name would be *new* or *fresh* as it was *unheard of* in that it had not been named before. It would be divinely given as it would proceed from *the mouth of the Lord*. And it is connected with the Gentiles seeing God’s righteousness. This occurred in Acts 10 & 11 in the conversion of the Gentiles. It is written in Acts 11:26, “...And the disciples were called **Christians** first in Antioch.” When a king met a preacher, Agrippa said unto Paul, “...Almost thou persuadest me to be a **Christian**” (Acts 26:28). Peter

penned, “but if a man suffer as a **Christian**, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name” (1 Pet. 4:16, ASV). Glory is given to God in this name!

2) **NEW COVENANT.** The Lord announced through Jeremiah, “Behold, the days come...that I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah...” (Jer. 31:31-34). This new covenant language is quoted in Hebrews 8:7-13. This shows there are “two covenants” as Galatians 4:24 says, and not just one-continuous covenant. “For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second” (Heb. 8:7). Sometimes it is called a “covenant” (Heb. 8:6; 10:16, 29; 12:24; 13:20), “law” (Jn. 1:17; Gal. 6:2), “testament” (Mt. 26:28; 2 Cor. 3:6, 14), or “will” (Heb. 10:9-10). The new covenant is so much better or superior to the old in that there is better “hope” (Heb. 7:19), a better “mediator” (Heb. 8:6), “better promises” (Heb. 8:6), “better sacrifices” (Heb. 9:23), and better “blood” (Heb. 12:24). So, why revert to the old covenant? “In that he saith, A

new covenant, he hath made the first old....” (Heb. 8:13). The New King James says, “He has made the first obsolete....”

3) **NEW COMMANDMENT.** The Lord taught, “A **new commandment** I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another” (Jn. 13:34). The great love of Jesus is shown in His death. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13). Ephesians 5:25 says, “...even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.” This love one another command is upheld all throughout the New Testament (Jn. 15:12, 17; Rom. 13:8; 1 Th. 4:9; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Jn. 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11-12; 2 Jn. 5). The Lord also said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (Jn. 13:35). Are we wearing the badge of discipleship?

4) **NEW CREATURE.** Paul wrote the Corinthians, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). The Lord has made it possible for us to be a new creature. Did you notice

where one is a new creature? IN CHRIST. Now the question is: How does one get into Christ? The Bible answers: "...baptized into Jesus Christ" (Rom. 6:3) and "...baptized into Christ..." (Gal. 3:27). Are you in Christ? Have you been baptized into Christ? Galatians 6:15 says, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creature.**"

5) **NEW MAN.** You may not like the man you are. I have news for you: you can be a new man! The book of the Lord describes two men: the old man and the new man (Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:1-13). Paul wrote, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man...And that ye put on the **new man**..." (Eph. 4:22, 24). The old man is "...corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (v. 22). The new man "...is created in righteousness and true holiness" (v. 24). Which are you? To put on the new man is to: "Put on therefore, as the

elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness" (Col. 3:12-14).

6) **NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH.** Our hope is not put down here on earth but "laid up" in heaven (Col. 1:5). This earth is temporary. The Bible teaches, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the

*day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (2 Pet. 3:10-12). Note the words "pass away," "melt," "burned up," and "dissolved" in this text. Peter continues, "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for (what do we look for, Peter?) **new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness**" (2 Pet. 3:13). In the final book of the Bible John said, "And I saw a **new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea**" (Rev. 21:1). How important it is then to "look up" (Ps. 5:3)!*

In John's vision of the new Jerusalem it is said, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful" (Rev. 21:5).

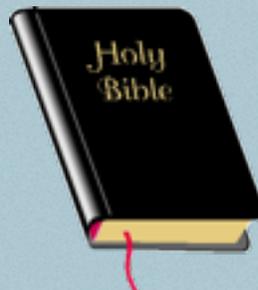
With A New Year Come New Opportunities! What Will We Do With Them?

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