

## New Things for a New Year

*John Isaac Edwards*

**2**012 is forever gone and what 2013 holds only the Lord knows. With a new year before us, it's a good time to call attention to some new things for a new year.

***New Testament.*** We need to learn, if we haven't already, that there are two testaments, the old and the new, that the old testament has served its purpose and been done away and the new testament is in effect. Jesus said, while instituting the Lord's supper, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). A reading of 2 Corinthians 3:6-14 will show that the old testament has been done away and abolished and the new testament, which excels and exceeds in glory, remains. The new testament is also referred to as "a new covenant" (Hebrews 8:8, 13). Jesus "is the mediator of the new testament" (Hebrews 9:15; 12:24).

***New Commandment.*** The Lord declared, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). The love of Christ for us is of such a nature that He "hath given himself for us" (Ephesians 5:2). It is written, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Would you be willing to lay down your life for the Lord's people? I am reminded of Aquila and Priscilla, "Who

have for my life laid down their own necks..." (Romans 16:4)? Would you have done that?

***New Lump.*** Paul wrote the Corinthian Christians about "a new lump" (1 Corinthians 5:7). The situation was that leaven of wickedness entered the church at Corinth in the form of sexual immorality, "that one should have his father's wife" (1 Corinthians 5:1). There was danger in this permeating the whole church as Paul declared, "...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (1 Corinthians 5:6). The brethren were instructed, "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump..." (1 Corinthians 5:7). The church is to be kept pure by putting away old leaven!

***New Creature.*** 2 Corinthians 5:17 teaches, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." It needs to be observed that it is in Christ Jesus where one becomes a new creature. Again the Bible says, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature" (Galatians 6:15). Just how does one get into Christ where he is a new creature? The Bible says, "baptized into Jesus Christ" (Romans 6:3) and "baptized into Christ" (Galatians 3:27). Have you submitted to the commandment of the Lord to be baptized? If not, why not now? "...behold, now is the accepted time...now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

**New Man.** Paul wrote the Ephesians, “Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace” (Ephesians 2:15). Paul continues, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:24). The new man is described in Colossians 3 as the Colossians “put off the old man with his deeds” and “put on the new man” (Colossians 3:9-10). When one puts on the new man, he is to put on such things as “bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another...And above all these things put on charity...” (Colossians 3:12-14).

**New Heavens and New Earth.** This world is only temporary. It will be burned up (2 Peter 3:10). “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13). The Lord’s people look for a new dwelling place. John described it this way: “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” (Revelation 21:1). This defeats the idea that this world will somehow be transformed into an eternal paradise. Our hope is laid up in heaven (Colossians 1:5).

**New Jerusalem.** John the revelator revealed, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:2-4). Do you know of anything better than that?

In this new year, let us fulfil the New Testament, the law of Christ, practice the new commandment by loving one another as the Lord loved us, see the importance of being a new lump, become and help others become a new creature in Christ, put on the new man, and live in such a way as to dwell in new heavens and a new earth, new Jerusalem.

We wish for you and your family a spiritually happy and healthy 2013. We invite you to come visit with us at the church of Christ at Terre Haute. We are happy to sit down with you and study the Bible. We just want to please God and go to heaven.

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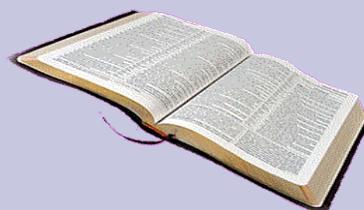
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**Assembling Times:**

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



**The Bible  
Is Our  
Only Guide!**