

The New Creation - Part 1

by T. Austin-Sparks

The New Creation is a spiritual reality that results from the mind of Christ being in us, leading to a new way of living and experiencing life.

Duration: 19:36

Scripture: Genesis 1:3, Genesis 2:24, Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:22, 1 Corinthians 15:45, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 5:31

Topics: "New Creation"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker tells a story about a man who was captured by a Roman general. Initially, the man was rebellious, but as he observed the general's way of life, he began to admire him. Eventually, the general offered the man his freedom, but the man chose to stay with the general because he had come to realize that the general was more powerful and admirable than he had initially thought. The speaker uses this story to illustrate the concept of surrendering to Jesus Christ and how it leads to a joyful and fulfilling life. The sermon also references passages from the Bible, such as 2 Corinthians 4 and Romans 5, to support the idea of the old and new creations in Christ.

Transcript

Our subject, as most of you know, is The New Creation in Christ Jesus. And we are following this subject through nine of the letters of the Apostle Paul. From the letter to the Romans, of course these letters written are a particular purpose.

That is, each letter has its particular purpose in being written. Paul did not write all these letters with the special object of speaking about the New Creation. He did not write any one of them with that particular object.

Each letter has another purpose. And yet, Paul seemed to live in the Old Testament. Paul seemed to have a New Creation mentality.

He was always thinking back to the beginning. And then making comparisons between the Old Creation and the New. This can be traced in all his letters.

Let me remind you of this in the letters which we have already considered. In the letter to the Romans, chapter 5, he refers to sin entering into the world. He says, as through one man, sin enters upon all men.

You can clearly see that this takes you right back to the beginning of the book of Genesis. Then when we go into the first letter to the Corinthians, in chapter 15, we have this. As in Adam, all die.

See, in Adam, all die. So in Christ, shall all be made alive. There is a reference to the Old Creation and the New.

In the same chapter, chapter 15, as verse 45, Paul says, the first man, Adam, was made a living soul. That is a reference to the Old Creation. The last Adam, which is Christ, is made a life, life-giving spirit.

That is a reference to the New Creation. Then when you go into the second letter to the Corinthians, in chapter 4, you remember what Paul said there. God, who said, let there be light, has shined into our heart to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

That is a reference to the Old Creation. God said, let there be light. Now the New Creation is that God has shined into our heart.

It is still the same God who gives light in the two creations. And then we pass into the letter to the Galatians, and we remember Paul's words, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision availeth anything but a new creation. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision availeth anything but a new creation.

So Paul is thinking about two creations. This idea of a new creation is always in his mind. When we go into the letter to the Ephesians, we find Paul quoting the very words from Genesis 2, 24.

In chapter 5 of the letter to the Ephesians, Paul is speaking about husbands and wives, and he says they shall be one flesh. And he quotes Genesis 2, 24. Oh, he has the Old Creation in mind and the New.

You can see what Paul's mentality is. He is always thinking in the realm of the two creations. He compares them, and then he shows their differences.

What the Old Creation was and what the New Creation is. So I think we have a good foundation for saying that these letters have something to say about the New Creation. Now we come to our letter for this evening.

The New Creation in the letter to the Philistines. This is a very small letter so far as its size goes. But it is a very big letter so far as its spiritual value goes.

While the letter to the Ephesians is the most wonderful letter in the Bible, I think the letter to the Philistines is the most beautiful letter. It is a letter that we love very much. We are never tired of reading this letter.

And we are going to look at it in the light of the New Creation. And we are going to ask this question. What is it in this letter that speaks of the New Creation? And the answer is found in chapter two, and verse five.

Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus. The thing that makes the New Creation here is the mind of Christ. Then we ask the next question.

What is the mind of Christ? And verse six tells us. Who, being in the form of God, counted it not a prize to be on an equality with God, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion of a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, yea, the death of the cross. Now there are two things in those verses.

One is a reference to the Old Creation, and the other to the New. Perhaps you cannot see how that is a reference to the Old Creation. But it gives us a picture of that which was the opposite to the mind of Christ.

We have several scriptures which give us some information. The information is about Satan before he became Satan. Before his name was Satan, it was Lucifer.

And his full title was Lucifer, son of the morning. And these scriptures tell us that he held a very high place in heaven. He was one of the most important persons in heaven.

The excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, so that the secret is found in chapter one, and verse twenty-one, for me to live is Christ. Christ had captured his heart. He had seen the value of Christ as of greater value than all that this world could give.

That is the secret of everything. It is a matter of how we value Christ. There is a story told of early British history.

When the Romans came to conquer Britain, the British had a great general. But the Roman general defeated him and then captured him. He was conquered and he was captured.

But he was not inwardly surrendering. He had to be led away a captive. And he was taken into the camp of the Roman general.

And there he lived for some time. And he watched this general work. He watched how this Roman general lived.

And slowly he came to like this Roman general. And instead of being a rebellious prisoner, he greatly admired the man who had conquered and captured him. And then the day came when the Roman general offered him his liberty.

Told him he could go back to his people if he liked. But he said, no I don't want to go now. First of all you conquered me.

And then you captured me. And now you have captivated me. Well you know that's how it was with Paul.

On the road to Damascus he was conquered. And then he became the prisoner of Jesus Christ. And then he became so taken up with the Lord Jesus that nothing that all this world could give him would separate him from Jesus.

He said for me to live is Christ. I have no other interest in being alive except Jesus Christ. You see it is that that makes the new creation.

And the people who have that mind are truly the new creation. And I cannot close this without pointing out one other thing. This letter has come to be called Paul's joy in Christ.

And if you look at it you will see it was the most joyous letter that ever Paul wrote. Paul was just overflowing with joy when he thought about these Philippians and wrote to them. It is the letter of Paul's joy.

Now some people seem to think if you surrender to Jesus Christ it's going to be a very miserable sort of life. You'll have to give up this and you'll have to give up that. You'll have to give up everything if you're

going to be a Christian.

And it's going to be therefore a very miserable experience. See what Paul gave up. Yes he gave up everything.

But was he miserable? When he wrote this letter he was the happiest man on this earth. He has found that Christ was more than everything that this world could give. So the new creation is a very joyous thing.

May the Lord make us like this. May we give heed to the exhortation. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

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