

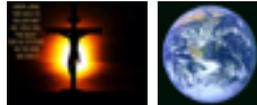
**14 June 2015 – 3 Pentecost.**

**Readings:** Ezekiel 17:22–24; 2 Corinthians 5:11–21; Mark 4:26–34.

**Theme:** “*What’s new?*” - **2 Corinthians 5:17**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”



**INTRO: Ecclesiastes 1:10**, “Is there a thing of which it is said, ‘See, this is **new**?’” To that we can answer, “Yes, yes, yes!”



### **I. RECONCILIATION!**

**2 Corinthians 5:14**, “in Christ God was **reconciling the world to himself**, not counting their trespasses against them”



### **II. REDEMPTION!**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, **the new has come**.”

#### **A. Who we are.**

**2 Corinthians 5:11-12**, “**What we are** is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience... what is in the heart.”

**Romans 8:15-16**, “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received **the Spirit** of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ **The Spirit** himself bears witness with **our spirit** that **we are children of God**.”

#### **B. How we think.**

2 Cor. 5:13, “out of our mind” into “the mind of Christ.” (1Cor. 2:16).

**Romans 6:3-11**, “**Do you not know** that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, **just as** Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in **newness of life**... **We know that our old self was crucified with him** in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin... So you also must **consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus**.”

### C. How we see.

**2 Corinthians 5:16**, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.”

**Matthew 16:18**, “I tell you, **you are Peter**, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”



### III. RE-PRESENT-ATION!

**2 Corinthians 5:20**, “we are ambassadors for Christ.”

**2 Corinthians 5:11**, “we try to persuade people.”

**2 Corinthians 5:18**, “God... gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

**William Barclay**, “It is the great responsibility of the ambassador to commend his country to the men amongst whom he is set. Here is the Christian proud privilege and almost terrifying responsibility. The honour of Christ and of the Church are in his hands. **By his every word and action** he can make men and women think more – or less – of the Church of which he is a member and of the Master whose he is and whom he must ever seek to serve.”

### A. By every WORD.

**1 Corinthians 5:20**, “God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God.**”

**Colossians 4:6**, “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

### B. By every ACTION.

**2 Corinthians 5:14**, “Christ’s love compels us.”

1. **Brother Yun**. *The Heavenly Man*. “I am a heavenly man!”

2. **Mother Teresa**. “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

3. **Rolland and Heidi Baker**. *Compelled by love* – Heidi Baker.

**CONCLUSION:** “WELCOME HOME ...you can boldly come forward, realizing that a loving Father declares, ‘Everything I have is yours’(Luke 15:31). The Father loves you!” In Jesus’ name. Amen. ☺