A NEW CREATURE
2 Corinthians 5:17, 18

INTRODUCTION:
1. It is important to understand what we are as Christians.
   A. Not merely what we ought to be.
   B. Nor, what we will be.
   C. But what we are as Christians.
2. Our text declares what every Christian is - “a new creature.”
3. Maybe, if we understand this, we will start acting like what God expects us to act like - “new creatures.”
   A. Too many professed Christians are still acting like they did before they became Christians.
      1. And all they have to look forward to is a surprise on the judgment day - Mt. 7:21-23.
4. Let us note some things pertaining to what being a new creation implies.

BODY:
1. A NEW CREATION HAS A NEW RELATION TO GOD
   A. First, it is new due to a changed relation to the law of God – John 3:18.
      1. Previous to the time that one becomes a Christian, the non-Christian fails in compliance to the law of God in many areas.
         A. The theory, advocated by some, that man is not amenable to the law of God, in any area, before they obey the gospel is ridiculous.
         A. The one who is in Christ is pardoned of these past sins and, therefore, does not face condemnation due to the laws previously broken - Rom. 8:1.
   B. Second, God becomes their Father with all the rights to tell His children what to do and what not to do - 1 John 3:1, 2; Mt. 7:21.
      1. He further has the right to chasten those children - Heb. 12:7.
2. A NEW CREATION HAS A NEW RELATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD
   A. Although specifically speaking of the Gentiles, Eph. 2:12 relates an important message about our new relation to the government of God.
      1. Actually, we see that the Bible shows that the new creation becomes fellow citizens with the saints, and heirs in relation to the promises of God - Eph. 2:19; Rom. 8:17.
      2. When a foreigner becomes naturalized, he becomes a new man in relation to our government.
         A. The same principle applies to the new man in Christ in regard to the spiritual kingdom of God.
3. A NEW CREATION HAS A NEW RELATION TO HIS FELLOW MAN
   A. The one who becomes a new creation comes into a new relation both to the church and to the world.
      1. To the church he now becomes a part of it - Acts 2:47.
      2. To the world he now seeks to no longer love it - 1 John 2:15-17.
B. When this one becomes a new creation the old standing is entirely changed - “old things are passed away.”
   1. A new man in responsibility, as he now serves the Lord - Mt. 6:24.

4. **A NEW CREATION HAS A NEW SET OF EXPERIENCES**
   A. No implication that he will always dwell upon the mountain top.
      1. Neither is it suggesting that we will no longer have struggles and disappointments.
   B. Only that a new factor has come into his life that touches and modifies every experience - Rom. 8:28.
      1. There comes an abiding consciousness of security not previously had - Mt. 28:20.
      2. New blessings come - Eph. 1:3.
      3. Courage is found in knowing that they are on the right side, even in a world full of sin - Phil. 1:20.
      4. Hope becomes a precious element in this new experience - Tit. 1:2.

5. **A NEW CREATURE IS A NEW CREATURE AT THE CENTER OF HIS BEING**
   A. In speaking of becoming a new creation we must understand that we are speaking of that which comes from within - Eze. 36:26.
      1. This new creation has been born anew - John 3:3.
   B. It is not just a changing of the old into the new.
      1. It is a making new of that which was old - Rom. 6:4.
      2. The old man has been put to death - Rom. 6:6.
      3. We have been made free from sin - Rom. 6:18.
      4. We have begun an over again.

**CONCLUSION:**
1. Are you a new creation?
   A. I didn't ask you have been baptized.
      1. I asked, are you a new creation?