

Aren't you glad that we serve a God who sees every passage of time as 'new'?

Scripture is full of references to the newness and freshness of what God is doing, and it's that revealing of His Faithfulness that brings us hope, even in challenging times; “Great is His Faithfulness, His mercies are new every morning,” readily comes to mind (Lamentations 3:23).

With that in mind, we are embarking on a four week study and application of the word 'new', starting at the beginning of January. The series entitled “New Year, New Day”, and is really a review of the basics of our faith-walk with our God who specializes in creating the new, especially out of the old, the weary, the hopeless and the weak.

A New Thing

1. God unfailingly approaches us from a present → future perspective.

2 Corinthians 5:17¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2. How I experience the realities of God's perspective relies solely upon my relationship with him.

Lamentations 3:23²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

Study Guide

1. If you are like many people, you're probably caught up in an exhale that sounds something like: “good riddance 2020!” Before we go any further can you list some good things that God has brought about in what has undoubtedly been a challenging year? (thankfulness really is a foundation of our walk of faith!)
2. Let's jump right into scripture, the first passage that we referenced on Sunday: **2 Corinthians 5:17**.
“¹⁷This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun .” What are your initial thoughts about that verse? Does it align with your Christian experience? Why or why not?
3. I realize that this could be viewed as a very intimate question, but the pastor in me will ask it anyway. What are some areas in your life that could use a touch of 'newness'? Remember-we're not generally speaking of exterior changes, though that may have some application. By and large, God is working on the 'new' interior of a person. Read **Ephesians 4:22-24** to gain further clarity. “²²throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴Put on your new nature, created to be like God-truly righteous and holy.”
4. Can you craft a prayer that reflects your heart and hopes for 2021? Try to focus on the ongoing work that God is committed to in your life. **Philippians 1:6** might help you formulate this prayer.
“⁶And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”