Newness

**Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

The New English Bible translation: ***"When anyone is united to Christ, there is a new world: the old order has gone; and a new order has already begun.”***

 We need to see the potential for newness in our lives in Jesus. ***"Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)***

###  Why change?

We pray for a change in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and not a change in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What does it mean to be "in Christ"?

1. His body - ***(Ephesians 1:3-10) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, {4} just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, {5} having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, {6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. {7} In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace {8} which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, {9} having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, {10} that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.***

2. His church - ***(Ephesians 1:18-23) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, {19} and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power {20} which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, {21} far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. {22} And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, {23} which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.***

### A new & different world starts with a new & different me

### Newness demands much more than some cosmetic change

"Gotta get a new hair-do" when what we need is a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***(Romans 12:1-2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.--- (Philippians 2:5) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,***

We want a new & shiny Vehicle when what we really need is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Fashionable eyewear is NOT what we need, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’ {16} “But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; (Matthew 13:15-16)***

Paul was a great example of becoming a new man. On his own, apart from Christ, he was a **religious** man, proud, narrow, bigoted, sincere, & violent.

### The Good News – A New Heart!

Long before medicine developed as a science, God was creating new hearts... ***(Psalms 51:10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.***