

A New Decade - 01/05/20

TEXT – 2 Co 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Rev 21:5 *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

INTRO- Life is a series of new beginnings. It begins at birth and changes periodically throughout the seasons of life. There are moments of time that decisions must be made that affect our future. People can change.

Look at the life of the Apostles

Look at the life of Paul

Look at the life of John Mark

Demon filled people were changed

Immoral people's lives were changed

Religious people were changed – Nicodemus

Act 5:34 *Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;*

Where were you in 2010 or in 2000?

- Jodi Rell Governor
- Barack Obama President
- IPad 2010
- 2014 Amazon Alexa
- Dow Jones Industrial Average was at 10,000 (The previous year, 2009, it was at 7000)
- Ford Fusion was the motor trend car of the year
- Facebook only began in 2004
- Cost of gas was 2.79 per gallon (In 2000 it was 1.70)
- Church – Staff changes, special speakers, special days

I. Receiving Christ as Savior is Life Changing

A. People in the Bible Jesus touched

1. The woman at the well
2. The demoniac of Gadara
3. The blind man
4. Zacchaeus a tax collector

B. A new believer is babe in Christ and a new creation

1. A transformed life

Eph 2:1-3 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this*

world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

C. S. Lewis was brought up in the Protestant Church of Ireland, but as a teenager, he said he lost his faith – turned off by boring church services and the problem of evil in the world. However, after returning to Oxford in the post-war period, he became increasingly perplexed by the existence of God and Christianity. After many evening chats with friends such as J.R.R.Tolkien and Hugo Dyson, C.S.Lewis finally converted to belief in God (theism) in 1929 and became a Christian in 1931. C.S. Lewis later wrote he felt a reluctant and unwilling convert. But, felt compelled to accept the evidence of faith. In his book, "Surprised by Joy" he writes that he came to Christianity:

2. Abiding in Christ John 15:

3. Grow in grace

1 Pe 2:2 *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

2 Pe 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

II. Your Direction Determines Your Destination

A. Where are you headed?

Belief in Jesus Christ not only changes our destination, it also changes our journey.

B. Who are your friends?

2 Sa 13:3 *But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man.*

C. What is important to you?

III. What You Live For Really Matters

- People live for money fame and fortune
- People live for the next fix or the next drink
- People live for some hobby
- Christians live for eternal fruit

A. Things that matter

1. Your personal walk with God
2. Your family
3. How you helped others
4. Your reputation

Pro 22:1 *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.*

B. Things that are eternal

Luke 16:25 *But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

**CONCL – Where will you be in ten years 2030?
What will you accomplish of eternal value?**