

# Living the New Life

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**Text:** Revelation 21:1-7

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**Series:** All Things New Series

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**Introduction:** Open your Bibles to **Revelation 21:1-7**. Today we are talking about "Living the New Life". So many people are talking about living the good life in 2010. If they were just a little skinnier, or if they were just a little richer! Honestly I don't care much about the GOOD life, I want to live the new life. The resolution for all Christians ought to be "Oh, that we might be a little holier, a little nearer to God!"

This year we want to focus on how Christ makes every thing new in the Christian's life. This is our theme for 2010.

John the Apostle, stranded, and imprisoned on the isle of Patmos sees a vision of the end of the world and the beginning of the next. Let's see what he saw in **Revelation 21:1-7**, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a **bride** adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 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. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

[Prayer]

We are beginning a new year. What are you preoccupied with? What is your focus? Remember what Christian said to his friend Hopeful? "I am most happy when I have my eyes fixed on the place I am headed". Where are you headed?

Eternal life is granted not to those who begin the race, but only to those who finish faithfully to the end. Do you know why? True Christians do not turn away.

- I. You can live the NEW life by focusing on the **Reason** you were created! God's Indwelling of His People (**verses 1-3**). The ultimate purpose we were created was for God to dwell in us. We see this as we look at the place of God, the people of God, and the presence of God.
  - A. You were created for another world, another place, the **Place** of God. In Revelation 21, we have just seen the destruction of all things, and now we have the creation of a new heaven and earth. The things on this present earth are passing away.

You were not made for things! Everything you see is passing away. **Verse 1**, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away". You were not created for things. You were not created for this world.

**Explanation:** Paul talks about this in **Colossians 3:2-4**, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory". This is in reference to the Lord's Second Coming, which has just taken place in the previous chapter. Seek the things that will be reality when Christ appears.

**Application:** You were not made for things, you were made for God! That's why materialism is so unsatisfying. Jesus said in **Luke 12:15**, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

We have at times been tempted to think that if we had a little bit more, we could be happier. But the Bible is clear that material wealth doesn't equate to happiness. Don't take my word for it. Listen to the richest people that have ever lived.

- "The care of 200 million dollars is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it." *W H Vanderbilt said that. Vanderbilt was the one that built the railroads.*
- John Jacob Astor of the Waldorf Astoria hotel fame said this: "I am the most miserable man on earth."
- John D. Rockefeller who made all of his money there in the oil business, at least later in his life said, "I have made millions, but they have brought me no happiness."
- "Millionaires seldom smile," Andrew Carnegie said.
- Henry Ford said this: "I was happier when I was doing a mechanics job."

**Transition:** So seek another place, you were not created for this world, but another world.

- B. You were created for another people, the **People** of God. On earth people groups are temporary. We all identify with a certain people group. Some people think they'd be happier if they just lived another place in the world.

**Verse 2**, "And I John saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a **bride** adorned for her husband".

**Explanation:** The New Jerusalem is contrasted with Babylon. A Bride is contrasted with a whore. In Revelation, God's people are part of Christ's **Bride**, and are represented by a city, the "New Jerusalem". The people of this world are represented by "Babylon" and are part of the great **whore!** What a contrast!

**Application:** In other words, your ultimate identity is not that you are southern or northern, African, Central American, European, or Asian. Your ultimate identity is not the color of your skin, or the depth of your accent. Your ultimate identity if you are in Christ, is that you are "from above". You are born from above!

Holiness will characterize you for ever. This is what we need to be as the people of God. We are Christ's Bride. Whenever the Bride enters, everyone always says, "Isn't she beautiful?" She's dressed in white. She's about to be united with her one true love. This is a picture of Christ. We will one day be brought to perfect holiness and perfect union with Christ. There will come a day when there truly is nothing between your soul and the Saviour.

- C. The **Presence** of God. **Verse 3**, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God".

All that Adam lost is gained again! Paradise is not the beautiful Garden of Eden or the streets of gold, gates of pearl, or even all the angels. Paradise is God's presence!

**Psalms 16:11**, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore". The ultimate fulfillment of Emmanuel, God with us, is not the incarnation, but the consummation.

- II. You can live the NEW life by focusing on the **Reversal** of the Curse. **Verse 4**, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away".

A. We look back to the cross when we suffer! We look back to the cross to see the forgiveness for our sins. We look forward to the second coming to see the final removal and reversal of the curse!

B. We look forward to the new creation when we suffer! The Curse is removed. **Romans 8:18**, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

1. No tears
2. No death
3. No sorrow
4. No crying
5. No more pain

**Philippians 3:13-14**, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

- III. You can live the NEW life by focusing on the **Restoration** of ALL things. **Verse 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. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

- A. Christ's Promise is **universal**. "All things". All things that make it through the Judgment of God are renewed. There's not a part of your life that Christ will not renew.

Remember, at Christ's second coming, the earth and heavens burn up. The heavens roll up like a scroll and pass away. All the mountains are removed and are cast into the sea. The stars fall out of the sky! So the entire earth and heavens are made new. But it's not for the mere sake of enjoying them.

"He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

1. He's in the process of RENEWING OUR **MIND**. **Romans 12:2**, "be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind".
2. He's got NEW **MERCIES** for you every morning! **Lamentations 3:22-23**, "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are renewed every morning: great is thy faithfulness."
3. He's made you a NEW **CREATION!** **2 Corinthians 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."
4. He's given you a NEW **LIFE**. So put off the old man and put on the new! **Colossians 3:9b-10**, "...ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."
5. He's made a NEW **COVENANT** with you, not by works, but by HIS BLOOD! **Matthew 26:28**, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."
6. He's given you a NEW **HEART!** **Ezekiel 36:26-27**, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."
7. He's given you NEW SPIRITUAL **LIFE!** **2 Corinthians 4:16**, "...though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."
8. One day He's going to create A NEW **EARTH AND A NEW UNIVERSE!** **Isaiah 65:17**, "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."
9. He's put a NEW **SONG** IN OUR HEART! **Psalms 40:3**, "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

- B. Christ's Promise is **unfailing**. Christ gives His Word, "these words are true and faithful". My progressive sanctification has not progressed to the point where I can say I will never fail you, but Christ who promises to make all things new never fails! No matter how difficult your path is, understand the road may twist and turn, but the one carrying you to Christlikeness will never drop you and no one will pluck you out of His hand!

C. Christ's Promise is **impartial**. It's to anyone who is thirsty! **Verses 6-7**, "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Are you thirsty to see God work? He did not come for you to prove yourself. It's free. Come without money and only your sins. He did not come to die for angels or the righteous, but "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". Are you a sinner? Christ will save anyone who comes to Him, and you will become an heir of God and a joint heir of Christ.

**Conclusion:** Are you born again? Be encouraged. He which hath begun a good work in you shall perform it until the day of Christ Jesus!

Are you as close to God as you want to be? Determine that you want nothing but Christ's touch on your life to renew you. Are there areas of stubbornness? Let the Holy Ghost break that hard heart. Are you here without a full assurance of God's love for you? Come to Him today. Fall into His arms today. He will never fail you. He'll never leave nor forsake you. Determine to live a life touched by God's grace. Seek the NEW life, and don't dare settle for the false utopia that the world falsely promises called the "GOOD" life. Let us live the NEW life in 2010!