

Walking In Newness Of Life

“Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

Several years ago I met up with one of my childhood friends and schoolmates. After talking for a few minutes, he blurted out, “I hear you are in church night after night, week after week. I don’t see how anyone could do that!” I agreed that my lifestyle was an unusual one, but further explained, “I’m not the same boy you knew in the past. I’m a new person and now enjoy serving the Lord.”

All Christians are new people! Of course, when you see them and talk with them, they are in the same bodies and speak with the same voices. But they’ve been made new within! They are transformed by divine grace, and the new life works its way out in their daily walk. In the words of scripture, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

When writing to the Galatian believers, Paul pointed out that what we do or do not do does not contribute to our salvation. Salvation is new life in Christ! “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature” (Gal. 6:15). New life is not the end but the beginning of genuine Christian experience. In our present text, we are introduced to the basic realities of this new life in Christ.

We are introduced to the Person of the new life! Spiritual life issues from Christ Himself. Thus, personal references to “Him” or “Christ” cannot be avoided. The Christian life is the Christ-in-you-life! If Christ is not in you, then you are void of divine life. To use Jesus’ words, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

We are introduced to the principles of the new life! The principles around which the Christian life is wrapped are the principles of death, burial, and resurrection. In a previous verse, the message is that we are “dead to sin” (6:2). Later, we are told, “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection” (6:5). Now, we are to simply “reckon” or “count upon” these truths to be so in a practical way (6:11).

We are introduced to the paths of the new life! As Christ lives within, and as we reckon ourselves to be dead unto sin and alive unto God, the new life is manifested externally in a dedicated walk. We find ourselves moving down paths of obedience (see 6:12), “righteousness” (6:13), and “holiness” (6:19). Walking in newness of life in this sphere prepares us for that sphere where “all things” will be made “new” (Rev. 21:5).

