

It's January first. It's the New Year. The time of new prospects and new endeavors. New thoughts and new choices are supposed to be in our plans for the new year with new resolute determination to pursue them. A new year, a new beginning and a new personal effort to make things new.

In that spirit of doing things new I am going to do a new thing, for me at least, and devote these thoughts to God's Word on what He had to say on making things new. Beginning with Psalm 98:1-3 then Isaiah 43:19, and 62:2; Jeremiah 31:31; Lamentations 3:20-23; Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:10-17. Here we go:

(Ps 98:1-3)

O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him. The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His lovingkindness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

(Isa 43:19)

Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it?

(Isa 62:2)

The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will designate.

(Jer 31:31)

"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

(Lam 3:20-23)

Surely my soul remembers and is bowed down within me. This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is His faithfulness.

(Eze 36:26)

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

(2 Cor 5:17)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

(Col 3:10-17)

Put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him - a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

There are many other verses, of course, that could have been included or substituted but I thought these led our minds to the newness of our own lives and worship. We are here as Christians, a new name given to us in Christ to honor the God who has called us to be His own. The new covenant bringing us directly to Him not only in our worship but in all of our lives.

As we come anew on a new morning in a new year let us remember the reason of our gathering in Christ. Luke 22:19-20 records Christ's own reflections, admonishments and instructions:

And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

This we do now in remembrance of Him as He willed, as He commanded. Always anew and being anew in this new covenant God so painstakingly brought to us.

In Christ,
DeMilt Morse