

Easter 2024
“New Creation”

I. Introduction - We are going to step out of our series on **Romans** today and talk about the Resurrection. I was originally going to talk to you about **John 19:30** where Jesus said, “It is finished,” but as I prayed about it I felt like the Lord wanted me to go a different direction.

A. Here’s why. Many people know that when Jesus went to the cross, He satisfied the wrath of God and if they’ll put their faith in Him they will be forgiven. Unfortunately, many have only heard half the story so we know we are forgiven for our past, but many the consequences of the past still affects their everyday reality and they think they are stuck with this reality until they die and go to heaven.

B. As much as Easter is about the finished work and our past being over, it is also about a celebration of New Creation.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:20** Christ is the first fruits of new creation. First fruits means there is more fruit coming.
2. What this means to us? Ex: Person who got pregnant in high school and knows they are forgiven, but feels stuck financially because of their past. New Creation means not only will Jesus forgive their past, God will release the Holy Spirit to make their financial situation new (whatever it takes to catch them up to where they should have been). **Revelation 21:4 I make all things new!**
3. **Ephesians 1:10 TPT** God began a restoration project in Christ 2,000 years ago where He is bringing all of heaven and earth in alignment with Him. The plan is bigger than forgiving sins. Forgiving sin was necessary to fulfill the greater plan of making earth like heaven. Ex: Car accident example.

II. New Creation

A. **2 Corinthians 5:17, 16**

1. *He is is* in italics in your Bible? The reason is *he is* isn’t in the original manuscript. In the original this verse reads, *if anyone is in Christ, New Creation!*
 - a. Behold means be held by This isn’t just take a quick glance, this is to be held by the fact that all things are made new!
 - b. Old passed away doesn’t mean we get younger or grey hairs disappear when we get saved. Often we’ll still have urges to sin and do wrong things. This causes some to question their salvation, while others think they are just saved and stuck until heaven.
2. Before I read **verse 16**, let me ask a question. How many of you know Jesus? How do you know Him? Have you seen Him physically? Did you walk the shores of Galilee with Him? Were you there when He healed Jairus’s daughter or

multiplied the loaves and fishes? So how do you know Jesus? **You don't know Him after the flesh. You know Him by the word and the spirit.**

- a. This passage also says we aren't to know anyone after the flesh. This includes yourself. You aren't to know yourself after the flesh. But how many of us relate to ourselves based on what we look like, the color of our hair, what our career is or how we scored on the SAT, etc?
- b. So how are we to know ourselves? The same way we know Jesus. We are to know ourselves by the word and the spirit.
- c. The old things that passed away are anything that was in our life that wasn't like Jesus and New Creation is the power of the spirit to make our life like Jesus. The process starts in our spirit and works its way out to our mind, will, emotions, and eventually our flesh. *Philippians 2:12*

B. Luke 4:16-30 TPT

1. Jesus goes to the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth and is given the scroll and opportunity to teach as a learned visitor. He reads from *Isaiah's* prophecy and declares this message is about Him.
2. The nature of the message isn't just accident forgiveness, it is restored lives. New eyes, freedom to captives, healing the broken-hearted, jubilee.
3. He sat down in the Messiah's chair (according to Jewish tradition this is the chair the Messiah would sit in when He was setting up His kingdom - You could probably cut the tension in the room with a knife.) He then declared today this prophecy is fulfilled!
4. Revival is about to break out as people marvel at His gracious words, but then some began to declare, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" They related to Jesus after the flesh instead of after the spirit. How often do we do that about ourselves?
5. Jesus knew what they thought then said they wanted Him to miracles to prove Himself. Satan will try to get you to do the same thing in order to believe you really are a new creation. **We have to believe what the word and spirit say about us before we ever see it in the flesh in order to see it in the flesh.**
6. Jesus so angered the religious with His bold decrees, they tried to kill Him. The person who lives after the flesh (what they can see, taste, touch, hear) won't receive the blessing of new creation.
7. Jesus leaves the place appointed for revival and takes the message outside of the religious atmosphere and revival breaks out among the hungry, the needy.

III. Conclusion - Today we are all left with a choice. Will we believe what the word of God and Holy Spirit say about us or will relate to ourselves after the flesh? If we believe what God says, we'll get to experience the reality of new creation. If we listen to the flesh will be the like those in Nazareth who missed what God appointed for them.

A. Transition to Herbert

C. Most have us have grown up in a culture influenced by Augustine and the reformers. Augustine did a great job of explaining the legal side of salvation. Man was born into sin and we couldn't save ourselves so Jesus saved us. The Eastern church placed a greater emphasis on the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives. While they got into the ditch of legalism at times, they were right about God wanting to transform our lives. The

truth is both groups got some things right. We are saved by grace, but out that God's grace gives us the ability to change and change the world around us into new creation.

New Creation is so much bigger than forgiveness of sins. God began a reconciliation project in Christ 2,000 years that is so much bigger than the forgiveness of sins. Sin had to be forgiven on the way to make us like Christ.