

New Beginnings

2 Corinthians 5:11-20

A. The Hope of a Fresh Start

1. Everyone longs for a new beginning, even believers sometimes need new starts.
2. We try to start over with resolutions, changes, or promises—but many fail.
3. Scripture declares that true new beginnings come **only in Christ**.
4. The Christian life has a beginning - no one is born a Christian.
5. We; all are born sinners (Ps. 51:5; Rom. 3:10-23)
6. All need to be born again to receive eternal life (John 3:1-5, 16)
7. We can be trapped by the past, burdened by the present, or fearful of the future.
8. David understood this and prayed for a new beginning (Psalm 51)
9. Scripture gives us clear steps to a believer's new beginning
10. This passage shows what God does when He makes all things new.

B. First Step Is Understanding Your Place

1. Salvation begins with a changed position – “*In Christ*.”
2. New beginnings start with relationship, not effort.
3. Our union with Christ changes everything – allows us to be filled with the H.S.
4. A changed person becomes a “*New creation*”
 - a. Not repaired, improved, or reformed—but something made new.
 - b. Salvation is transformation from the inside out.
5. The past is changed – “*The old has gone*”
6. Sin, guilt, shame, and condemnation no longer define us.
7. God does not renovate the old life; He replaces it.

C. Second Step - Forgetting The Past

1. Let the past remain where God put it—behind you (Ps. 103:12, 1 John 1:9)
2. Refuse to be tormented by sins God has already forgiven
3. New beginnings also require forgiving others (Eph. 4:32)
 - a. Many are held back in their Christian walk by refusing to forgive.
 - b. It is time to put away old grudges for wrongs done to us.
4. We can forgive because we have been forgiven.
 - a. We have never been wronged as deeply as we have wronged God.
 - b. Since He has forgiven us, His forgiveness empowers us to forgive others,
5. Are you ready to let the past be passed through forgiveness?

D. Third Step Is Looking Forward

1. Let the future be hopeful through faith (v. 18)
2. We have a new relationship with God (v. 18a)
3. “*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...*”

4. He is the source of the new beginning.
 - a. Notice that: *"All this is from God"*
 - b. Salvation is God's work, not ours.
 - c. Grace initiates what we could never accomplish.
5. The entire Christian life is an experience of living in faith
 - a. The righteous & just shall live by faith (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38)
 - b. Faith is total trust in the Lord, & is the opposite of fear.
 - c. As faith increases, fear decreases.
6. Why then are so many believers in bondage to anxieties?
 - a. They are not trusting God for everyday provisions (Phil. 4:19)
 - b. They are trying to face the future before it arrives (Matt. 6:34)
 - c. They forget that nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37)
7. Reconciliation means:
 - a. Where once were enemies, now restored to fellowship with God.
 - b. The barrier of sin has been removed through Christ.
8. A new standing before God (v. 19)
9. *Not counting people's sins against them* – Sin is no longer counted.
10. Our record is cleared. We are justified: declared righteous in Christ.
11. Christ's finished work brings peace with God, replacing fear & separation.
12. Forgiveness rests on what Christ has done, not what we do.

E. Let the Present Be Exciting Through Evangelism (vv. 18-20)

1. God has given us the **ministry** and **message** of reconciliation.
2. He gives us a new purpose for life.
3. We have been commissioned to tell others of Christ's love.
4. We move from Recipients to Representatives
 - a. Those who are reconciled are sent to reconcile others.
 - b. New life leads to a new mission.
5. We are ambassadors for Christ.
6. We speak on behalf of The King!
7. Our lives and words point others to Christ.
8. We are to bring others to be reconciled to God.
9. Nothing is as exciting as winning others to the Saviour.
10. The gospel is not condemnation but invitation.
11. 2Cor 5:20(b): *"Be reconciled to God."*

F. Conclusion: Step Into A New Beginning

1. New beginnings are not found in trying harder but in trusting Christ.
2. In Christ you are made new, made right, and sent out
3. Embrace what God has already provided for you.
4. Let the Holy Spirit do His work in your life.
5. Let forgiveness, faith, and evangelism bring you a new beginning.
6. 2Cor 5:17: *"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come."*
7. Will you step into the new beginning God offers today?