

1. Our LifeLines verse for April 29 will be Galatians 2:20!
2. Bring a friend!

LifeLines April 22, 2024

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17

**So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new!**

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 3:15, But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

CONTEXT

Second Corinthians is probably Paul's third letter to the church at Corinth. He wanted them to know how his encounter with the risen Christ changed the way he regarded others. He could no longer view people the way he had before his experience on the Damascus road. Once he met Christ, he knew he must see others as "new creatures." After all, he had become one as a result of faith. He knew he was now chosen & blessed to be a blessing. So are we.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV or to versions shown below.)

AMP

Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn & renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral & spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings new life].

CEB

So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, & look, new things have arrived!

CEV

Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, & everything is new.

CJB

Therefore, if anyone is united with the Messiah, he is a new creation – the old has passed; look, what has come is fresh & new!

EASY

When anyone belongs to Christ, they become a new person. Their old way of life has gone. Their new life has begun!

ERV

When anyone is in Christ, it is a whole new world. The old things are gone; suddenly everything is new!

GW

Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence.

MSG

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once & got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at Him that way anymore. Now, we look inside, & what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it!

NIV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

*So if anyone is in Christ...*In Christ refers to being *in union* with Him through the Holy Spirit. People who are “in Christ” are those who have faith in Him & know that they've been credited with *Christ's* righteous life, not their own! They know their sins have been forgiven, because He died in their place. When we are “in Christ,” we should begin to bear a resemblance to Him in the ways we think, speak & act.

*there is a new creation...*With faith in Christ, we can become something we have never been before! Our identity is no longer of someone who *is fallen*, but someone who *is the righteousness of God in Christ!* We are transformed into a new creation of God. (Romans 12:2)

everything old has passed away... Our former selves are to be gone. Old ideas, dreams, agendas, & purposes should cease to exist. Old things refer to anything about our former nature which isn't pleasing to God – prideful ways, habits, misplaced passions, reliance on works, & preoccupation with self. These things, along with our sins, have now been nailed to the cross. Do our lives reflect this new nature? (See Romans 7 verses.)

see, everything has become new... Old ideas & ways are replaced by Christ's ideas, agendas & purposes. We are *Christians!* God does not hold sins against those who believe. Moving ahead without the weight & bondage of sin frees believers in Christ. We are free to live full of life with the glory of God in us. Our purposes, desires, feelings, understanding & viewpoints can be fresh & renewed. Scripture comes alive with new insight. We can love in a new, more purposeful way, with compassion from a heart of flesh, not of stone.

No one reaches sinless perfection in this world, but those who have been sanctified & made holy, set apart as children of God & joint heirs of Christ, are redeemed by His blood. There may still be sin in our lives, but we are no longer *slaves* to sin. When we recognize sin in our lives, we ask for forgiveness & repent, empowered by the righteousness of Christ in us. We are dead to sin & alive in Christ (Romans 6:11). Question: Do we live as though we are new creations?

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Verses are NRSV unless otherwise stated. What verses come to *your* mind?)

Genesis 12:2-3, I will make of you a great nation, & I will bless you, & make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, & the one who curses you I will curse; & in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Psalms 51:10, Create in me a clean heart, O God, & put a new & right spirit within me.

Isaiah 43:19, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness & rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 55:8-9, For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways & My thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 65:17-18, For I am about to create new heavens & a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad & rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, & its people as a delight.

Ezekiel 36:25-26, I will sprinkle clean water upon you, & you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, & from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, & a new spirit I will put within you; & I will remove from your body the heart of stone & give you a heart of flesh.

Matthew 9:17, Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, & the wine is spilled, & the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, & so both are preserved. (Why is this a related verse?)

John 1:12-13, But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born, *not of blood* or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3 CEB, Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.”

Romans 5:10, For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life.

Romans 7:15, I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

Romans 7:25b-c, So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 8:1-2, There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin & death.

Romans 8:6, To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life & peace.

Romans 8:19, For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Romans 12:2, Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good & acceptable & perfect.

2 Corinthians 3:18, And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:18, All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, & has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:19, That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, & entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5:21, For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 10:5, We destroy arguments & every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, & we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:7, Look at what is before your eyes. If you are confident that you belong to Christ, remind yourself of this, that just as you belong to Christ, so also do we.

Galatians 2:20, And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

Galatians 3:13, In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Ephesians 2:10, For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:15, He has abolished the law with its commandments & ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace.

Ephesians 4:22-24, You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt & deluded by its lusts, & to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, & to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness & holiness.

Colossians 1:20, And through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

Colossians 3:1-3, So, if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, & your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:10, And have clothed yourselves with the new self, which *is being renewed* in knowledge according to the image of its Creator.

1 Timothy 6:19, Thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

1 Peter 1:23, You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living & enduring Word of God.

1 Peter 1:25, "But the Word of the Lord endures forever." That Word is the good news that was announced to you.

2 Peter 3:13, But, in accordance with His promise, we wait for new heavens & a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

1 John 3:5, You know that He was revealed to take away sins, & in Him there is no sin.

Revelation 21:1, Then I saw a new heaven & a new earth; for the first heaven & the first earth had passed away, & the sea was no more.

Revelation 21:4-5, “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning & crying & pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the One who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” He also said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy & true.”

SUMMARY

Do we *think* of ourselves as *new creations*? We *do* know we’ve been saved by grace through faith. In LifeLines, we often speak about body, soul & spirit. If we have a tough time accepting ourselves as new creations in Christ, it’s probably because we’ve been listening more to our *body & soul* (mind, will & emotions) than to our *spirit*. Paul had this difficulty. That’s why he said we must be transformed by *renewing* our mind.

Think of a time you’ve gotten a new appliance, phone or car. It can be overwhelming to understand, *adapt to* & enjoy everything the new acquisition was designed to do for us. Salvation & new birth in the Holy Spirit can be like that. Still, we must step into our new life with confidence in everything God, our Savior & Holy Spirit have given us.

The difficulty is we may have been giving too much attention to our body & our soul. We may have given them power to run our lives. In 2 Corinthians 10:5, Paul said we must take our *thoughts* (the *mind* of the soul) captive to obey Christ. Our *spirit* is infused with the Holy Spirit, so it can overrule & conquer ways our *body & soul* try to manipulate our life. Our old ways are gone. To continue living in those patterns doesn’t acknowledge gratitude for all we’ve been given. Let us glorify God for the new creation He’s allowed us to be.

If ever we don’t *feel* (the *emotion* of the soul) as though we *are* a new creation or *live* as if we are a new creation, we need to build our spiritual muscles to claim & “take hold of the life that really is life.” It’s the life God intended us to have & enjoy as believers.

CONCLUSION

Christ is the New Covenant which makes it possible for believers to be made new once & for all – *for all eternity*. We are now in Christ! The old is gone! All things have been made new! Let us live our faith in ways that do justice to our Heavenly Father, our Savior & the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Hallelujah! Amen!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

Let 2 Corinthians 5:17 be a *LifeLine* for you.

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new!*

Take a few minutes to think about this LifeLine & our discussion.

1. Write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:

2. Write one thing you feel compelled to share with someone? Whom will it be?

3. How & when will you share with that person?
