

Upcoming Events
Budget preparations for 2020
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Hebrews class Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Living as a Christian

“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.” – C.S. Lewis

“We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.” – Mother Teresa

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 27 Sue Tanner 29 Noah McKnight
30 Richard Karns 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Things Old and Things New

By Dan Jenkins

That transformation which occurs when one becomes a Christian is so remarkable. The apostle Paul emphasized this to those new Christians in Corinth. In his second letter to that church he spoke of all he was in Judaism before becoming a follower of Jesus. No one excelled his credentials, yet he gave it all up. He reminded them of this truth and then applied this transformation to all Christians. *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

What Was Old and Passed Away?

In Judaism, there were those who boasted in their appearance and lived for themselves (2 Corinthians 5:12, 14). All that mattered to them was the fleshly honors they had attained (v. 16), but Paul said that having become a Christian none of these mattered at all.

The old guilt of sin had passed away. Under that Old Testament law, every year there was that Day of Atonement (modern Jews call it Yom Kippur) when God remembered the nation’s sins, and His displeasure was “satisfied” by the offering of animal sacrifices. It was a religion which easily created guilt for there was no real forgiveness. When one becomes a Christian God *“remembers their sins no more”* (Jeremiah 31:34).

The old system of being God’s chosen people had passed away. God have given the Old Testament, but it was only to the Jews (Romans 3:1-2), and the rest of mankind were thereby separated from the promises and blessings of that system. Paul turned his back on all that when he learned of God’s new religion where there is no distinction between Jews and Greeks (Galatians

3:28). Under that old covenant one was born into a relationship with God (whether one wanted it or not), but in God's new plan one makes his own choice to be born again into God's family (John 3:3-5).

What Has Become New?

Under the New Testament all of this had changed. There is now freedom of choice. The old law was a yoke of bondage (Acts 15:10), but Jesus' new law is easy and light (Matthew 11:30). There is now eternal forgiveness—God no longer remembers our sins because Christ has become our eternal, atoning sacrifice. There is now a new relationship with God—Jesus' model prayer begins, "*Our Father who is in heaven.*" John said it this way, "*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God*" (1 John 3:1).

What has become new? Paul's answer is "*all things have become new.*" Paul gave up everything to embrace Christianity. Consider this question. What have we given up to become a follower of Jesus?

More than a Children's Song

By Dan Jenkins

Sometimes one of life's greatest lessons can be found in places where we would not think they could be found. There is a simple song which has been sung by children for at least sixty years which has profound truth. In reality, while it may be thought of as a children's song, those who are older would truly profit if they thought about its message.

*Watch your eyes, watch your eyes what they see.
Watch your eyes, watch your eyes what they see.
For the Father up above is looking down in love,
So watch your eyes what they see.*

Each succeeding verse is similar but changes the word eye and the word see to point to another part of the body. The children point to each part of the body so there is a lot of action. Those of us who

are older could profit, not by doing the accompanying actions, but by doing the "action" in our hearts.

Watch your eyes, what they see. "*The woman saw that the tree was good...pleasant to her eyes*" (Genesis 3:6). "*All that is in the world...the lust of the eyes...is not of the Father*" (1 John 2:16). "*The eyes of man are never satisfied*" (Proverbs 27:20). "*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes*" (Proverbs 12:15).

Watch your ears, what they hear. "*Hear my prayer, O God, give ear to the words of my mouth*" (Psalms 54:2). "*One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination to God*" (Proverbs 28:9). "*Then he read from it in the open square...from morning until midday...and all the ears of the people were attentive to the book of the law*" (Nehemiah 9:8). "*Incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding*" (Proverbs 2:2).

Watch your lips, what they say. "*Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit*" (Psalms 34:13). "*O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise*" (Psalms 51:15). "*My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul which you have redeemed*" (Psalms 71:23). "*Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight*" (Proverbs 12:22).

Watch your hands, what they do. "*My hands also will I lift up to Your commandments, which I love and I will meditate on Your law*" (Psalms 119:48). "*These six things the Lord hates, yes seven are an abominations to Him...hands what shed innocent blood*" (Proverbs 6:16-17).

Watch your feet, where they go. "*I thought about my ways and my feet turned to Your testimonies*" (Psalms 119:59). "*I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word*" (Psalms 119:101). "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path*" (Psalms 119:105).

Let us sing.