

New in Christ

Romans 6:4-Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (KJV)

The Holy Apostle Paul's epistles reach through the centuries to benefit believers. Time and space are transcended by God's power working through the Holy Apostle. Believers continue to benefit and are enriched by the Holy Apostle Paul's epistles. God's Holy Church utilizes the epistles of the Apostle Paul in the Divine Liturgy. Attentive believers savor the God-inspired epistles and change their lives accordingly.

2 Corinthians 5:17-Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (KJV)

Believers become "new" in Jesus Christ and the epistles serve as written inspiration. The Holy Apostle became "new" in Christ and serves to guide others to Jesus Christ. Serious believers immerse themselves in the timeless writings of Holy Apostle Paul. The "new" life possible in Christ is well-described in St. Paul's preserved epistles. Reading the epistles enriches and inspires believers seeking newness in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 6:15-For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (KJV)

Newness in Jesus Christ is possible throughout life and is spurred by repentance. Repentance is the shedding and rejection of sinful ways and embracing Jesus Christ. Embracing Christ is a mutual action simultaneous with Christ embracing the believer. When the believer draws near to Christ in repentance, Christ welcomes the individual. Joy arises in Christ when repentance occurs and individuals firmly reject sinful ways.

Ephesians 4:24-And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)

Age is no impediment to growth in Christ as long as the mind continues to function. A firm desire to live in Christ is necessary for Christ to fill the heart, mind and soul. Sin is cast from the person with God's help in order for purity to prevail in the soul. Conscious decisions during the course of daily life foster newness in Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church offers the necessary nourishment to sustain the new life in Christ.

Colossians 3:10-And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)

The new life in Jesus Christ results in interior and exterior changes in the believer. Noticeable changes occur in outward behavior, actions and in personal disposition. When newness in Jesus Christ occurs, personal relationships are directly affected. Efforts at peaceful accord and greater civility increase when a person is new in Christ. Anger dissipates and forgiveness and love abound when Christ lives within the person.

Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostle Mary Magdalene. July 22/August 4, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic