

# ***The Practicality of Redemption (2)***

## The New Nature

### Introduction

- A. God has made a provision for the believer regarding his sinful nature in the Crucifixion. We died in Christ our Representative and are therefore dead to sin, Romans 6:6. As we learn to practice the truths of the Crucifixion, our sinful nature can be "paralyzed" and we can live in freedom.
- B. In the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus a provision had been made so the believer may have a new nature -- or more Biblically stated -- may be reborn spiritually, and become a person characterized by righteousness.
- C. Our problem as believers, is not in the adequacy of divine provision, but in our inadequate understanding of the will of God, our vacillation as to whether we want to be delivered, and our halfhearted practice of the truths we have been given.

### **I. The Description of the New Nature and its Beneficial Products.**

- A. The new nature has its source in the work of Jesus Christ and produces a transformation of our person, character, and life.**

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new. II Corinthians 5:17*

Comment: The believer, through the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration, has been made a "new creation" -- spiritually reborn -- made alive to God as a total person. This is the most radical and revolutionary transformation one could ever receive.

- B. The new nature is the key for personal assurance of salvation as well as the living of a successful Christian life.**

*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision (Jewish formalism) availeth anything nor uncircumcision (religious emotionalism), but a new creature. Galatians 6:14,15*

Comment: When Paul makes use of the word "avail" in this passage he is referring to the spiritual problem that caused him to write the Galatian Epistle. The issue was whether one was saved and could live successfully by works plus grace or by grace alone. The truth is clear -- it is God's grace alone -- because we are all new creatures.

- C. The new nature is the source of righteousness and holiness. The believer, therefore, has the ability to live a righteous and holy life.**

*And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:24*

Comment: Our new birth is analogous to our creation in the image of God. The emphasis is on enablement -- ability to live for God.

**D. The new nature is a source of divine enablement for truth and understanding. The believer, therefore, has the ability to know and practice truth.**

*And that ye put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. Colossians 3:10*

Comment: God originally made us to know Him, ourselves, one another, the world, and how to live so we may honor Him. In the new birth, we have been restored, to this relationship and ability. We have been promised that knowing (doing) truth will make us free. John 8:32

**II. The Provision of God Concerning the New Nature.**

*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. Romans 6:4*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I Peter 1:3*

Comment: The provision of the resurrection, with all its power and life, has been given to every believer in the new birth. We not only died in and with Christ we also shared in His resurrection! The divine provision for our life is not to strengthen the old nature -- He crucified that -- but to give us a totally new source of life and ability to live for Him. It is all ours -- in spite of how we feel about it -- and in spite of how we have failed!

**III. The Exhortations Regarding the New Nature.**

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV*

Comment: Note the three steps presented by the Apostle:

1. "Put off the old self" -- the message of Romans 6:6-13. We are to "put off" by choices -- decisions of faith -- acting on the truth that we died in Christ, and can refuse all forms of sin.
2. We are to "be made new in the attitude of our mind." The reference has to do with understanding and practicing what it means to be a new creature in Christ. We must study His Word. John 7:17
3. We are to "put on the new self." This means to make decisions to practice the new life we have received in all forms of righteousness and truth. We are new creatures and must live that way.

Conclusion: **The quality of our spiritual life is in our own hands!**

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