

Day 5

Prayer: Start by praying to God to help in your transformation.

Scripture:

“Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 CEV

Explanation:

There are essentially only two viewpoints for man - human or divine. Man either sees everything from the limited, fallible, perspective of human wisdom, or from the infallible, revealed perspective of God in the Bible. The perspective of the unbeliever is limited to this world, by the limitations of this existence. He sees nothing beyond this existence. Everything is relative to this earthly experience. That is why human perspective alone leads to degradation, depravity and despair. Every human experience is evaluated and acted upon from an animal fleshly-materialistic perspective (e.g. **Rom 1:18-32**). But as for the believer, Paul says, from the very moment he accepts by faith the atoning death of Christ, he gives up his right to think or evaluate or act by himself or for himself. He no longer views anything from the limitations of flesh or matter. He sets his mind on the things of the Spirit (e.g. **Romans 8:5ff**). He surrenders his thinking and evaluating and acting to the mind and behavior of Christ revealed in the Bible. The Bible takes over his mind and his life. Every aspect of life - home, job, education, entertainment, finances, hobbies, sexuality, emotions - everything, is brought into conformity to the precepts and principles of the Holy Spirit revealed in the Scriptures. The Christian surrenders all right to say, *“It’s my life, and I’ll think the way I please and live the way I want.”*

Non-Christians view Christ from a human point of view. They think of him as being no more than merely another human being, having no authority to exercise over anyone else. Non-believers reject the idea that Christ was God in the flesh. They refuse to accept his death as an atonement for their sin. They may grant that he was a wonderful, wise, compassionate religious teacher, but they will not accede Christ any right to do their thinking for them. They reserve the right to disagree with any viewpoint Christ might dictate in his teachings or those of his apostles. But, Paul says, once a person becomes a christian he views Christ no longer from a human point of view. The christian never claims the right to disagree with any New Testament viewpoint.

Thus, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature (*or creation*). Paul is not dealing with the possibility of the new creature here as much as he is dealing with the fact. He is saying, *“It is a matter of fact that those who are in Christ are new creatures with a totally new perspective!”* This is the way it must be for a Christian! The old, human perspective, has passed away; behold, the new, divine perspective, has come and is continuing to come (Greek *gegonen*, perfect tense verb, *“has come with a continuing action”*). The new creation with the new, divine perspective, is a continual, growing, ever expanding experience. It is the experience of being changed into the likeness of Christ from one degree of glory to another (e.g. **2 Corinthians 3:18**) by *“beholding the glory of the Lord”*.

Meditate:

Are you living a new life? Are you making the most of your relationship with God? Can you see your new nature?

Prayer: Finish with a prayer asking God for wisdom to surrender all to Him.

Transformation