



Sunday 11th April 2021

Therefore, 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

Worship

In Christ Alone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWiFYJMGas0>

My Jesus, my Saviour - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He8ls3vcqM8>

Romans 6:4

⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even **so we also should walk in newness of life.**

Jesus tells us in His word "Behold, I make all things new!" It is this newness of life I would like to think about and give God thanks for this Sunday Morning! - He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. (Romans 4:25). Without Jesus' death there would be no forgiveness of sins, without His resurrection there would be no justification, no communion, fellowship or friendship with God, no NEWNESS OF LIFE!

Our culture and society has taught us from childhood to earn – to earn a living, to earn rewards – how often have we heard children asked at Christmas time "Have you been good this year" in order to earn the right to receive presents from Santa rather than coal? This mindset does have its advantages – after all – "if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either." (2 Thessalonians 3:10) ... However, when it comes to receiving the free gift of salvation, and walking in the newness of life that Jesus bought for us, we must simply humble ourselves and thank Him for what He has done for us, for the FREE GIFT of God - *eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1 Corinthians 2:12

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

When we believe and confess our faith in Jesus, when we give our lives to Him, we step into a new life, born again, a new creation - We begin to feel, to think, and to act as we never did before. We feel His compassion, joy, peace, love – we feel the wonderful presence of God - we think differently, transformed by a renewed mind to live in purity and love, to live in mercy not in judgement - we act in a new way, a way contrary to our sinful human nature as the Holy Spirit renews us daily to love living for God.

Although I was brought up in church and got saved at the young age of 6, when I was 19 I found Jesus as an adult (or rather Jesus found me! Ha!) for the first time and the redeeming work of the cross transformed my entire life! I've never seen the sky so blue, or the grass so green, I couldn't stop smiling and bursting into little fits of laughter at absolutely nothing on the public bus from

Newcastle back to Hexham, I was forgiven, washed clean, completely new, the great burden of my sin and shame was gone and I was free to be with my God in such a pure and wonderful way as I had never experienced before. I laugh as I look back now at how I cheerfully picked up all the litter on the roadside as I walked back to the farm – I was clean and I wanted the world around me to be clean – I had received the free gift of God and stepped into a BRAND NEW LIFE!

Part of Florence's word from a couple of weeks ago referred to Jesus washing His disciples feet, and how He told Peter that "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean" We are always cleansed by Jesus finished work on the cross, however, even as we walk in newness of life our spiritual feet can get dirty and we need to experience the joy of His salvation over and over again in our Christian Life!

David writes in **Psalm 51:12-13**

*¹² Restore to me the **joy of Your salvation**,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.*

This is such an encouraging truth! To walk in Newness of life is not to be the perfect finished product – but rather, children of God, clothed in His righteousness, repenting along the way for our mistakes and pursuing Him, His presence, His peace and His Heart!

Romans 5:21

so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are not human doings but human beings! You cannot know God better through your actions – You can only act better through knowing God more and pursuing Him. We are not transformed from the outside in but from the inside out.

Jesus says - **Matthew 23:25-26**

²⁵ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence."²⁶ Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

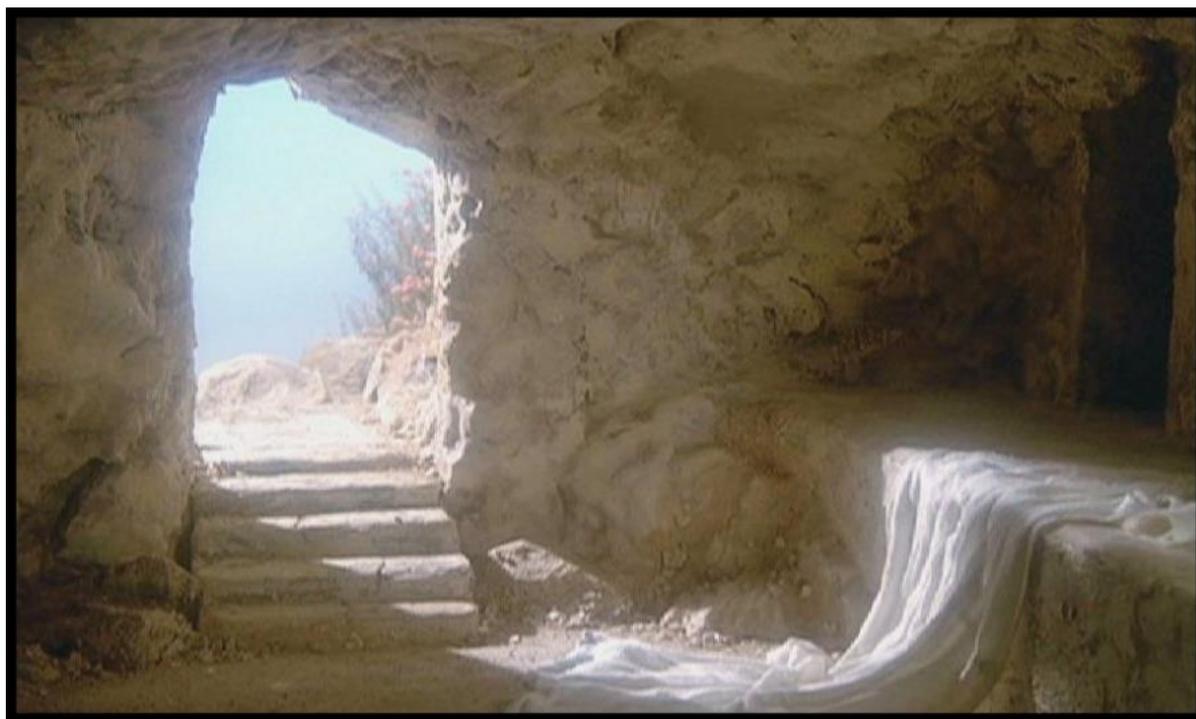
Galatians 3

*¹Foolish Galatians... Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?..... ²⁶For you are all **sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

It is our joy to obey out of love, not from slavery or fear but from the excitement of His salvation, from the gratefulness for His forgiveness and from the reality of this newness of life in which we now walk!

Not so long ago we looked at a scripture together from Proverbs 4:20 ... Above all else, guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it flows the issues of life! This newness of life Jesus died and was raised for us to have must be highly valued above all else and guarded - for from it every aspect of our lives, both naturally and spiritually are blessed; our relationship with God, our marriages, our families, our church community, our mental and physical health, our relationships,

our work places, our finances – blessing into all these areas come from holding on to our First Love, guarding our hearts, daily receiving and living in His newness of Life.



John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Prayer:

Jesus – We love You! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for Your incredible free gift, thank you for taking our sin and shame, for forgiving our sins, for giving us Your newness of life! Fill us afresh with Your Holy Spirit for grace and power to live our lives as You lived and to be salt and light to our families, our church and our community! Amen

What a Beautiful Name – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4>

Have a wonderfully blessed week everyone!!