

BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

By Dale DuVerney

We love new things! Auto manufacturers depend on our loving new things. Our children's eyes sparkle when we talk of giving them a toy which is called new. Our Savior had John pen these words: “Behold, I make all things new.” The words of our text should sound pleasant to our ears, something new! I am thankful that there is deeper meaning, even more joyful, in these wonderful words. The newness which Jesus brings is bright, clear, heavenly, and enduring.

We are at this moment specially ready for a new year. Most men are glad to see the year go – they are tired of it, have grown weary of it, and are anxious for the new to come. Some are glad to escape from what has been to many a twelve-months of great trial. Some are hoping that this newborn year will not be worse than its predecessor, and we pray that it may be a great deal better. We must not, as men and woman of Christ, be carried away by novelty, by the zeal for newness, for we worship a God who is ever the same (Hebrews 13:8).

In some matters “the old is better.” The “Old Jerusalem Gospel” is old, and it is certainly better! Jeremiah warned ancient Israel of wandering away from the old paths: “Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). The Gospel is old, but it is as new for some today as it was when it was first delivered on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47).

We must seek to be new men and woman this new year. We are “renewed” in our spirit day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16). When we were baptized into Christ, we were “raised up to walk in the newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Paul tells us that we are to “put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3:10).

I once heard a story about the notable Augustine. One tells that soon after Augustine's conversion, he was walking down the street in Milan, Italy. There he accosted a prostitute whom he had known most intimately. She called but he would not answer. He kept right on walking. "Augustine," she called again. "It is I!" Without slowing down, but with assurance of Christ in his heart, he testified, "Yes, but it is no longer I." Although young in the faith, he knew something of a solicitation to do evil and the way of victory over temptation. His reply, "It is no longer I," expresses a realization that he had a new power available to combat the forces of sin and evil which would seek to dominate his life. He was a changed man.

We are meeting on the first day of the week for the first time in a new year, and therefore it is a solemnly joyous day (Psalm 122:1). The words of Jesus are so very relevant today: “Behold, I make all things new.” Lets take these words apart, little by little, and notice some remarkable things about our Lord.

“Behold, I make all things new.” Who is the “I” in this verse? Who other but the Son of God! He is, after all, the first and the last (Rev. 1:8). It is He who was with God, was God and became flesh (John 1:1-3; 14; Phil. 2:5-8). It is He who changed water into wine, stilled the surely sea (yea, walked on the water), fed the multitudes, healed the lame, restored sight to the blind, cured the leper, and raised the dead! It is He Who died on the tree for our sins and was raised again the 3rd day for our justification! (Rom. 4:25). It is He Who ascended and will one day come again and judge all of mankind (Acts 1:9-11).

“Behold, I *make all things new.*” We live in a world where things are made. We make cars, toys, electronic equipment, pharmaceuticals, skyscrapers, and even clones from DNA and an ovum. However, we begin with previously existing materials — stuff that was already available to us. This one named Jesus makes from nothing — ex-nilo! Did so in Genesis 1:1-2 when He created the heavens and the earth. Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:9: “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, *who created all things by Jesus Christ*” (Emphasis mine, D.D.) In Colossians 1:16 the inspired apostle wrote: “*For by him were all things created*, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: *all things were created by him, and for him*” (Emphasis mine, D.D.). No wonder then that the twenty-four elders John saw in his heavenly vision fell “down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created’” (Revelation 4:11).

“Behold, I *make all things new.*” What a range of creating power is here! We have already seen that Christ has creative power over creation — the physical realm! However, Jesus is not limited to the physical, he can reach deep into one’s soul and make a new person! This, my friends is not done to a man miraculously! Jesus never does to a man that which the man does not want to have done! How then is this transformation, this creation, done? It is done through a transformation of the mind (cf. Romans 12:1-2). A few verses that may help us understand: Ephesians 2:10: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.” Ephesians 4:24: “and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Colossians 3:8-10: “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.” Finally, Paul wrote: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17: cf. Galatians 3:27-29; Romans 6:1-4). Nothing stands outside of that all-surrounding circle of creative ability: God can, through Christ, make you a new man or woman this very day!

“Behold, I *make all things new.*” The word for “new” in our text this morning is the Greek word “kainos” refers to that which is new in character and in quality; that which is unaccustomed or unusual. Jesus makes us new in character and quality, new in that which the world is unaccustomed, that which the world views as unusual! This creative power was seen in the lives of the woman at the well (John 4); The woman taken in adultery (John 8); Zacheas (Luke 19); Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8); Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9, 21, 26).

He can make all things new in your life this very hour! What are you struggling with this morning? (Finances? Health? Family? Your Job? Unresolved Anger? Discouragement? Alcoholism? Pornography? Sexual Immorality? Drug Use/Abuse?). He can make all things new today! As long as one continues in their old life, they are lost and destined for eternal punishment! (Romans 6:23 — the wages of sin is death; Hebrews 9:27 — It is appointed unto all men to die, and after this the judgement). We shall all be judged for the good or evil we have done (Ecc. 12:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:10). Friends, it is **not** God’s will for you to be lost (1 Tim. 2:3; 2 Peter 3:9). He has made provision for man’s salvation through the offering of His son (John 3:16). He has made provision for man’s salvation through preaching (1 Cor. 1:21). Our obligation is to hear and obey: “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:21-22). Therefore, no man can blame God if he is lost — God has made a way to be saved, to be renewed! Can we help you obey your Lord today? Come to Him in repentance, confession of Christ, being baptized in water for the remission of your sins. **Will you come to God today and become a new creation?**