**“OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW”**

**SCRIPTURE READING**….[**2Co 5:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%205.17)**…. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a**

 **new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all**

 **things have become new.**

1. Beloved according to this great scripture, it is assuring us that

great changes can take place in the life of one who is a Christian:

2. But what does this change mean?

 a. What attributes does this "new creation" hold in the eyes of God?

 b. What type of life is he or she to lead?

 c. How does this change affect his or her relationship to things

 pertaining to one's old way of life?

[In Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, we find the answers to such

questions. This is a topic that I covered at a home bible study….

Note first of all that a Christian is described as...]

1. **SITTING WITH CHRIST IN HEAVENLY PLACES – Here is the description that Paul wrote to the Ephesians….** [**Ep 2:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%202.6)**…Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.4But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,5Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)6And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

But don’t take your seat just yet….because in order for us to really appreciate this position we need to first know what went

**“out with the old….”**

**Carnally speaking….**

**2014 is now history….**

**Many of us had many carnal problems, issues, situations and we are glad they are gone…..for we knew it was time for them to go as in…”OUT WITH THE OLD”**

1. **Spiritually speaking….**
2. **OUR FORMER CONDITION...**

 1. We were dead in our sins and our trespasses. - [**Ep 2:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%202.1)

 2. We were quite active, walking and following after:

 a. **The world….. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust**

 **of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of**

 **the world.**

 b. **Satan… was on our track** deceiving us buffeting us,

 mistreating us, misleading us, tossing us to and fro,

 stealing from us, and in many cases he destroyed and

 almost killed many of us.

 c. **The flesh** –we failed to understand that the flesh and the

 spirit had nothing to do with each other!!! Our flesh

 was completely out of control!! Wanting everything,

 having everything it’s way and subdued us into a lascivious

 and unworthy condition. Paul said that there was a war within

 his members. **Galatians 5:16 says… 16This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and**

 **ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

**\*\*\*\*So I come today to let you know that it is high time we recognize that it is now “out with the old and in with the new!!!!\*\*\*\***

**B. OUR NEW CURRENT CONDITION...**

 1. Out of love, mercy and grace, we who were dead are now alive!

[**Ep 2:4-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%202.4-5)**;** 4But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,5Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

[**Ro 5:6-8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%205.6-8)**…**6For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.7For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.8But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

 2. Now we are blessed to be:

 a. Raised with Christ -

 b. Seated with Him in "heavenly places" -

 1) In the spiritual realm, we enjoy blessings in Christ –

[**Ep 1:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%201.3)**….**3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

 2) In the spiritual realm, Christ rules at God's right hand

[**Ep 1:20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%201.20)**..** 0Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

 3) In the spiritual realm, we sit with Christ - [**Ep 2:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%202.6)

 4) In the spiritual realm, we learn of principalities and powers

 through God's wisdom by the church –

[**Ep 3:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%203.10)**..** 10To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

 5) In the spiritual realm, we wrestle against spiritual

 wickedness –

[**Ep 6:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%206.12)**….**12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

 4. We need to Compare our position with Christ in the "heavenly places"

 a. Christ is seated at God's right hand –

 b. We are seated together with Christ! -

 5. Our position with Christ certainly warrants a proper frame of

 mind –and certain changes need to be applied.

 **You say you want change to take place in your life…..then listen carefully to this…..**

[**Col 3:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.1-2)**…** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

 a. We are to seek those things above

 b. We are to set our minds on thing above

[As **"A New Creation,"** sitting with Christ in heavenly places ought to

affect the way we think. But also the way we behave, for as "A New

Creation" we are to be...]

1. **WALKING IN MANNER WORTHY OF OUR CALLING –**

[**Ep 4:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%204.1)**…**I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

 **A. THE PURPOSE OF OUR CALLING...**

 1. To be holy and without blame - cf.

[**Ep 1:3-4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%201.3-4)**…**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:4According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

1. To be His beloved children through adoption…

[**Ep 1:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%201.5)**..** 5Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

**As a new creation and as we usher “IN WITH THE NEW”**

**We need to prepare ourselves for this new year for it is “OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW”**

1. **WE MUST WALK WORTHY OF OUR CALLING...**

 1. **“IN WITH THE NEW”** Is one in which we "walk in love" - [**Ep 5:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%205.1-2)

 a. As beloved children, imitating their Father

 b. Following Christ's own example of sacrifice

 2. **“IN WITH THE NEW”** Is one in which we "walk as light" - [**Ep 5:3-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%205.3-14)

 a. Living lives holy and without blame

 b. As light exposing the all the deeds of darkness

 3. **“IN WITH THE NEW”** Is one in which we "walk as wise" - [**Ep 5:15-17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%205.15-17)

 a. Understanding that time is short

 b. Understanding the will of the Lord

**Beloved Listen….[**Walking in "love", as "light", as "wise", will not be without controversy in the midst of a dark, perverted world….

And so as **"A New Creation"** prepared to bring ‘IN with THE NEW’ we need to...]

1. **STANDING FIRM IN BATTLE –we sang at watch night…”WE GOT THE VICTORY”**

**Fully understanding that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down strongholds!!!!**

**Our war is not against flesh and blood but against powers principalities and wickedness in places.**

**If we are going to have the victory we must learn to employ all our weapons.**

**VIETNAM EXPERIENCE!!!!!**

[**Ep 6:13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%206.13)**…**13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

1. **SO WE MUST KNOW THE NATURE OF OUR BATTLE...**

 1. beloved, We are engaged in a spiritual warfare - [**Ep 6:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%206.12)

 a. The battle is taking place in "heavenly places" (the

 spiritual realm)

 b. Our foe: the very things we had previously followed - cf.

 2. Thus the need to be strong -

 a. To be strong in the Lord

 b. To be strong in the power of His might

 **B. THE NATURE OF OUR ARMOR...**

 1. We are given the armor of God, which we must put on -

 2. This armor is adequate for a strong offensive battle –

 a. Waist girded with truth

 b. Breastplate of righteousness

 c. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace

 d. Shield of faith to quency the fiery darts of the wicked one

 e. Helmet of salvation

 f. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God

 g. Praying always with all prayer and supplication

 Notice that God never gave us any protection for our back….

 -- Note the lack of protection from behind; this implies that

 we must be committed in standing firm against the enemy, and

 that to retreat insures defeat!

**BELOVED TO ENJOY OUR VICTORY WE MUST PUT**

**“OUT THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW”**

**CONCLUSION**

1. When a person becomes **"A New Creation"**, it affects how he or she

 sits, stands, and walks...

 a. **Sitting** with Christ in heavenly places

 b. **Walking** in a manner worthy of our calling

 c. **Standing** firm in battle

2. Compare this to the wicked person who is not blessed by God as

 described in [**Ps 1:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%201.1-2)...

 a. **Walking** in the counsel of the wicked

 b. **Standing** in the path of sinners

 c. **Sitting** in the seat of scoffers

What a remarkable contrast! Truly **"old things have passed away; behold,**

**all things have become new."** Has this proved true in our lives?

Give careful thought to how and where you are siting, walking, and

standing,if you desire to be **"A New Creation"** in Chrst!