

A close-up photograph of a young green plant with two leaves, one of which is slightly curled. The plant is set against a soft, out-of-focus green background. The word "Behold" is written in a large, elegant, white cursive script across the lower right portion of the image.

Behold

Download slides: <http://bit.ly/beholdsermon>

1 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NKJV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; **behold, all things have become new.** 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 **2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NKJV**

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP

“Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!”

- “A new creation (a new creature altogether) = a new species, no longer fallen, no longer “merely human” we are NOW new creations

2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP

- No longer merely a “son of Adam” now we are “sons of God through adoption” but more than mere legal adoption, we are made one with Christ, we share His spiritual DNA – that is what is meant by a new creation.
- Clarke: **“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature** - It is vain for a man to profess affinity to Christ according to the flesh, while he is unchanged in his heart and life, and dead in trespasses and sins; for he that is in Christ, that is, a genuine Christian, having Christ dwelling in his heart by faith, is a new creature;

Download slides: <http://bit.ly/beholdsermon>

2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP

- "his old state is changed: he was a child of Satan, he is now a child of God; he was a slave of sin, and his works were death; he is now made free from sin, and has his fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. He was before full of pride and wrath; he is now meek and humble. He formerly had his portion in this life, and lived for this world alone; he now hath God for his portion, and he looks not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are eternal. Therefore, old things are passed away.

2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP

- “**Behold, all things are become new** - The man is not only mended, but he is new made; he is a new creature, *καινη κτισις*, a new creation, a little world in himself; formerly, all was in chaotic disorder; now, there is a new creation, which God himself owns as his workmanship, and which he can look on and pronounce very good.”
- Order of creation & new creation
- Chaos → Spirit → Word → Order → Intimate breath & indwelling Spirit → LIFE

2 Corinthians 5:18 NKJV

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

- “Now all things are of God” - Nothing is exempt
- **Who reconciled us to himself through Christ**
“Here Paul uses one of his great doctrinal words, *katallasso*, an old word for exchanging coins” - reconciliation is a transaction.
- Story of leaving Morocco, once we left the country the currency of Morocco could not be exchanged – it was useless

2 Corinthians 5:18 NKJV

Personally this means:

- We must exchange everything
- Nothing can be held back
- Not only does it become useless, it becomes cancerous, destructive, deadly
- Every aspect of our lives, external & internal, past, present & future - must be “renewed”
- Everything “reconciled to Himself through Christ”
- Each and every aspect of our lives brought into reconciliation with God personally, through our relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior - with God everything is personal.

2 Corinthians 5:18 NKJV

To interpret and apply this verse only applying to ourselves is to misunderstand it and its purpose

- The “transaction” or transformation begins personally but demands and empowers us to cause this same transaction/transformation to occur around us
- “Given us the ministry of reconciliation” - “given”: adventure, bestow, bring forth, commit, deliver (up), grant, make, minister, offer, have power, put, receive, set, and smite

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

“That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- “the world”: the cosmos - the whole of creation
- Romans 8:19-22 NLT For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are. (20) Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope,

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

- (21) the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. (22) For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

What does this mean?

- Creation is in need of transformation - and we are the agents of that transformation
- This includes the transformation of nature, economics, art, music, business, government, everything

What does this mean?

- All of it as an outworking of Christ in us (personally) - the hope of glory
- Then Christ in another (someone close to us) - working transformation in that individual producing transformation of their lives and the lives around them.
- As this transformation spreads outwardly in waves of influence, our world will increasingly reflect God's image more and more

What does this mean?

- This doesn't mean that our hope for the future is a gradual betterment of humanity until we reach utopia - that just doesn't work, nor is it the hope the Bible teaches
- We reach as many as we can in our generation, and hand off the task to the next generation. Each facing the challenges a new generation brings.
- This continues until the generation that will see King Jesus return and establish His unchallenged rule on Earth for all eternity.

RESPONSE:

Personally:

- Is there any loose change from the old life that you're clinging onto? Or worse...
- Do you have a balance on your "Past Life Credit Card" that you need to declare bankruptcy?
- The legal term for when one goes through bankruptcy and the debt is erased is "forgiven."
- Pray - repentance, renouncement & forgiveness and ACCEPTANCE of new creation LIFE!
- New year = New start

RESPONSE:

Communally: “All creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are.” Rom. 8.

- Believe this... don't hide your faith, your transformation. Don't “cloak” yourself in worldliness.
- How can YOU REVEAL the nature of King Jesus, who is IN YOU?
- At work, at home, at school, at the market, on Face book, twitter, to your neighbor ...

Pray a dedication of our whole selves to this mission; and the whole of 2014 to the Lord.

A close-up photograph of a young green plant with two leaves, one of which is slightly curled. The plant is set against a soft, out-of-focus green background. The word "Behold" is written in a large, elegant, white cursive script across the lower right portion of the image.

Behold

Download slides: <http://bit.ly/beholdsermon>