

YOUR NEW LIFE

The world into which Jesus Christ entered was every bit as troubled as yours today. Maybe not identical particulars: attacks from deepstate globalists and communist China, bent on the destruction of liberty, including a covid bioweapon, infuriating election fraud, economic warfare. Criminally compromised government, corporations, media, culture. Constitutional and court crises. Oppression of ordinary citizens, especially Christians. Because evil never stops.

These challenges wore a different face 2,000 years ago. People endured the same personal issues of weariness and need and illness and loss, alternated with momentary happiness. Too many taxes, not enough income. Ordinary things of life like you have. Plus the occupying pagan Roman army. This was an everpresent reminder that God still had not answered their prayers, and had not yet blessed them with His long-promised Deliverer.

1- A NEW BIRTH - This all changed when in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman (Galatians 4:4) just as He prophesied thousands of years before. Reading the Bible narrative of the birth of Jesus Christ brings a sense of calm. God is indeed in control.

"The incarnation of Christ is by far the most amazing miracle of the entire Bible, far more amazing than the resurrection and more amazing even than the creation of the universe," notes theologian Wayne Grudem. "The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe." No doubt, God can and will keep all His promises.

And the birth of Jesus Christ brings new birth to all who receive Him. Believing in Him as Lord and Savior, you are born again from above by the Holy Spirit, as Jesus said (John 1:11-13, 3:3), being regenerated to new eternal spiritual life. The spiritual life of Christ in you!

2- A NEW HOPE - the apostle Peter writes of re-born believers: "*According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*" This new birth by God points to a God-ordained life, today.

"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." The next advent of Christ is as sure as His first Advent.

"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." Our daily living hope has a glorious certain result.

3- A NEW POWER - God's power guards believers, and the apostle Paul says in Romans 5 that the power of the Holy Spirit indwells and equips believers to endure the trials of life. Jesus Christ brings not only peace with God (our ultimate need) but power for life (our daily need).

"We rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Are you living by God's power source?

4- YOUR NEW LIFE - Why live a power-less life, thinking it's all up to you to figure everything out and change your life to be like God wants? It's all about trusting and obeying what God has written and done. With Christ as Lord and Savior, you have His new spiritual life within you, lived out by the indwelling Holy Spirit's enabling power. Believe it and be living it.

As the apostle Paul declares, "*it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*" (Galatians 2:20). This means a Christian can face 2021 with great faith and without fear! Fear is a choice. Joy is a choice. Hope is a choice. Faith is a choice. Choose wisely! ☐