

Reflections on the message by Mike Kerry on Sunday 6th June 2010

“Can a man become a new creature?” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (ESV)

When Mike was born again he had a new understanding and an awareness of sin. His life changed, never to be the same again. He was a new creation. This is the new birth, or regeneration.

There are two facts about being born again. (1) The regenerate man has forever ceased to be the man he was. He is out of reach of condemnation and has been raised to a new life of righteousness. (2) Regeneration is due to the free and mysterious exercise of divine power. You are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8). You can no more bring about your own salvation that babies can co-operate in their pro-creation.

If you are born again it is obvious. There is a change. The behaviour and life of the unregenerate person changes. The regenerate person, who used to be dead to God, becomes alive to God. Where there was no relationship with God, now there is a relationship to Him. The regenerate one becomes certain about God, now has fellowship with God, communes with Him all the time, begins to live in righteousness and holiness, knows that he or she need never die, is destined to eternally live in the presence of God.

Acknowledgement is given to Neil Anderson whose books explain more about becoming a new creation. The following scriptures describe what the person who is a new creation is like:- John 1:12, John 15:15, Romans 5:1, 1 Corinthians 6:17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 1:3-8, Colossians 1:13-14, Colossians 2:9-10, Hebrews 4:14-16, Romans 8:1-2, Romans 8:28, Romans 8:31-39, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Colossians 3:1-4, Philippians 3:20, 2 Timothy 1:7, 1 John 5:18, John 15:5, John 15:16, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Ephesians 2:6, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 3:12.

The new creation can say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). The new creation lives and dies and rises again in Christ.

When someone believes, God places him or her in Christ. If you are in Christ, God counts you as sinless because Jesus Christ took away your sins on the cross. John 3:16 is a promise that all who believe will have eternal life. If you are in Christ you receive new life just as Jesus Christ received a new life at His resurrection. If you are in Christ you walk in this new life every day, show evidence of the fruit of the Spirit, and you abide in Christ. If you are in Christ you can start life over again.

When Mike gave his life to Christ he became a new creature. His hands became new – he did different things to what he did before. His eyes became new – he looked at different things to what he did before. His ears became new – he listened to different things to what he did before. His mind became new – he thought about things differently to what he did before. His heart became new – he loved different things to what he did before.

If you are in Christ, your past is totally forgiven. You have a new identity in the Lord. It doesn't matter what you were. We heard testimonies from Darren and Peter. We heard how those who have been involved in criminal gangs, in drugs, violence and murder, who had been in prison, met with Jesus Christ. Their lives were completely changed by the Holy Spirit and they set about doing good in the world. They had experienced God's forgiveness and new life and have clearly become new creations.