

A Sermon
from

2nd Cor. v, 17

Therefore if any man be in
Christ, he is a new creature;
old things are passed away; be-
hold all things are become new.

What are we by nature & what
may we become by grace? are
questions which deserve our
~~most~~ anxious inquiries, our most
careful attention. That there
must be a change, ^{in man} a great and
thorough change, no one will deny
who knows his own heart and
contemplates ~~the truth~~ ^{the truth} that our future
is ~~closer~~ ^{closer} for happiness.
That this present world is not our
abiding place, that life is but a ^{needed} ~~holiness~~ ^{righteousness}

For without holiness no man shall see the Lord.
Nor can we ^{a short reprieve}, that all around
be made us is of a changing & passing nature
happy that nothing however eagerly sought
without being ^{restored} after however ~~esteem~~ much esteemed
to God's ^{among} by men, can be depended on, that
image & likeness all this world gives is uncertain,
which ^{man} who does not know it? Nor does any
to be restored thing ^{do} effect we may secure
to perfect it's permanent ^{happiness} afford true ~~lasting~~ ^{lasting} ~~happiness~~
enjoyment.

We ^{know} ~~all~~ ^{that our} ~~electing~~ ^{is not in} ~~electing~~ ^{to be made happy} ~~if we are not~~ ^{mindful of it, is} ~~happiness~~ ^{only} ~~Real happiness can~~ ^{be found} ~~the~~ ^{Beyond} ~~the grave~~ ^{there} ~~will~~ ^{it be found} ~~unless~~ ^{unless} ~~we are pre-~~ ^{pared} ~~pared~~ ^{for it in this present world.} And
what is the preparation required? We

We have ^{the promise} ~~our~~ ^{that} ~~we are~~ ^{that} ~~there will~~ ^{be a new heaven & a new earth.} ~~Then~~ ^{who} ~~can~~ ^{can} ~~be fitted~~ ^{be fitted} ~~for the same~~ ^{except those} ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~are made~~ ^{are made} ~~new creatures~~ ^{new creatures} ~~here.~~ ^{here.} ~~But~~ ^{But} ~~to be~~ ^{to be} ~~among~~ ^{among} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~sanctified~~ ^{sanctified} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~light.~~ ^{light.}

Things must pass away, all things must
be made new. The change which will

fit us for that ^{perfect state of glory & happiness} ~~eternal life~~ & bliss
commence here. It is in this world
that a man must ^{again by that state} ~~be able to say~~ of himself & his condition, "I am
no longer what I was once, old things
have passed away with me: behold,
all things are become new."

of grace
as to say

The text in its connexion indicates
the nature of the change & how it is
brought about. It implies

I, That ^{in & through Christ} ~~Christ is the author of~~
a new creation is secured to us.

II, That this new creation ^{means implying a} ~~shall be~~ ^{thorough}
~~personally experienced, and~~ ^{deep &}
^{vital} ^{change} ^{in man}

III, That its reality will be evi-
denced in its blessed & happy
results.

May God's Holy Spirit guide us
and enlighten us in our personal
meditation & fill our hearts with
new desires, new thoughts & renew
our hearts & souls with life & power from on high!

I) That man's natural state, ever
since his fall & alienation from
God, is a state of spiritual death &
condemnation, is constantly asserted,
nay, taken for granted, throughout the
New Testament; it forms the groundwork
of Christ's ~~mission to earth~~ ^{mission to earth}; it is the
very cause of his coming into this world.
It is for ~~guilty~~ ^{guilty} sinners he
was sent, it was ^{to men} ~~for~~ ⁱⁿ accordance with
sin & guilt that ~~he~~ ^{his} gracious invitation
~~was graciously extended~~ ^{was graciously extended} to
to ~~all~~ ^{all} men. It was for transgressors &
for evildoers, for men that had broken
God's holy law & who were under the
curse that Jesus, the Holy One of
God suffered & died, the Just for
the unjust. Every name, title & office
of Christ indicates man's lost condition
and provides for his restoration. The
leading theme of the preaching & writings
of the Apostles is, the offer of salvation
to sinners, freedom to the guilty, mercy &

1 mediator-
ial office

1 were
~~addressed~~
addressed.

paradise to offenders, grace ^{& life} & spiritual
renewal, to those who were dead in trespasses
& sin, ~~all things which~~ ^{are} have passed away, ^{When it is}
& new things ~~which have been brought about~~ ^{said:}
~~have no other meaning than that~~ ^{instead, the}
through Christ our former state, our ^{primary}
sinful & guilty relation to God, has ^{meaning}
been changed & a new relation ^{is this:}
a relation of acceptance, of pardon ^{that}
& peace, has been established,
by Christ's redemption & reconciliation.
All this is taught with such a ^{kindness,}
and urged on our attention with such
powerful arguments, ~~with such force~~
with such earnest exhortations, that
no one can mistake the true doctrine
of the Gospel ^{or} the ~~divine~~ way of
salvation, ~~by which we may be~~
~~restored to God's favor & communion~~ ^{our own}
But let me remind you, brethren,
that our new relation to God, implies
not only his readiness to pardon our
offenses & to blot out our transgressions,
but also a spiritual renewal,
a passing from death into life, or,

a new creation, an inward ~~change~~
radical change of the heart, a change
in will & desires & affections in
principles & sentiments ^{such} as will
manifest ~~themselves~~ ^{itself}, manifest their
reality, ~~Divine energy~~ in our lives.

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ
he is a new creature," or a new creature
as the original word may be rendered.
Pardon & reconciliation ^{though freely bestowed} are closely con-
nected with ~~this~~ ^{our} spiritual renovation
& newness of living. This is plain-
ly shown by the ~~at~~ the whole con-
nexion of the text. A pardoned sinner
can not continue in sin. Repentance
towards God & faith towards our Lord
Jesus Christ must ~~produce that eternal~~
~~within us in our life that vital~~
~~change within us which will be fol-~~
lowed by righteousness & holiness of life.

We may indeed assert, that sin
God reconciled the world unto
himself, by the atoning death of his

manifest

such a
space
before
after the
text,
magnifying
God's love
& mercy
in Christ,
reconciliation,
that
as an
effectual
motive
a constraining
power for
our spiritual
renewal

So, the world is brought into a new,
favorable, relation unto God, inasmuch
as Christ's redemption is made avail-
able to the world at large, ~~the~~ and,
inasmuch as the message of pardon
& peace ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{is} to be universally
proclaimed. We may further reason,
reason with justice & on Scriptural
ground, that all who are partakers
of the Christian covenant, all who
are made members of the Church,
are, in a certain sense, in a state
of grace, because partakers of Christ-
ian privileges & blessings, partakers
of the means of grace & within the
reach of the light of the Gospel. We may
say to all who profess the faith of the
Gospel, that a glorious hope is held
out to them; ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~we may~~ ^{we may} apply to them
St Peter's language, "We are begotten
again unto a lively hope through the
resurrection of Jesus unto an inheritance
which is incorruptible". This in this

sense, that our Church ~~employs~~ ^{uses} the term "regenerate," or, born
anew, at the Baptism, both of infants
& adults, saying: "Seeing now that this
child, or this person, is regenerate and
grafted into the body of Christ; Church."
But though we feel justified in
using this language, in dependence
on the promises & offer of God, and
in the hope of the outward sign being
accompanied by ^{inward} spiritual grace,
for the conversion of the person so
baptized; the question yet remains,
whether the grace signified & promised
becomes effectual. The Church offers
that which God has offered. But
should the offer be refused, or not
be heartily ~~accepted~~ ^{embraced}, however
~~great~~ free, abundant & general
God's gracious offers, no real bless-
ing can be conferred, no effectual

grace imparted; ~~except when~~ ^{the change}
in ~~temper~~ in baptism ~~has been~~ ^{must be} realized
by a spiritual renewal of heart & soul &
~~when~~ the baptism of water ~~has been~~ ^{must be}
accompanied by the baptism of the Spirit.

In short, there must a change such as resembles
~~as befores that we have passed from~~ ^{that of a}
~~spiritual death to spiritual life & have~~ ^{new}
~~been made new creatures, that old~~ ^{man re-}
^{things must} things, old sinful habits have passed ^{to life,}
away, ~~have been~~ ^{in calling} laid aside; and
all things, ^{into} ~~that we have passed from~~ ^{existence}
whether in our prevailing sentiments, notions &
~~affections & dispositions the motives that~~ ^{a new}
aims, or our general character all must become ^{being!}
~~wholly new.~~ ^{a new} ^{creation.} ^{spiritual} ^{life} ^{events.}

On reading carefully the New Testament
~~the teaching of the apostles~~, one should
think, there could be no two opinions ^{about} on
this subject, no difference among earnest
Christians men. ^{that} ~~that~~ all would agree
~~to~~ admit, ~~that~~ ^{that} whatever privileges
baptism & Church membership confer
on us, however important the means

of grace we enjoy, that nothing can ef-
fectually, movingly & finally avail us,
~~if regeneration~~ unless we are truly
regenerate, or born anew, in that sense

which im-
plies new
principles
new senti-
ments &
new ways
of living

~~which is intended in Scripture~~
which ^{transfers} ~~regenerates~~ ^{spiritual} an inward renewal
^{so that we might} as to resemble a new creation, a entire
change created within ~~and without~~ and
~~seen without~~ ^{seen} ~~without~~ ^{grounded in the}
^{since which may be} ~~there is~~ witness in our outward
life & conduct. When we do not see
^{such a} ~~real~~ change, when men live either in
open sin, or in habitually scanning,
& following their evil propensities, un-
able & unwilling to conquer sinful passions,
& ~~evil temptations~~, when their habitual
walk is after the flesh & not after
the Spirit, when neither love, nor peace
nor pure alabaster, ~~nor~~ nor anxiety &
~~evangelicalness~~ are crucified; where
envy malice revenge & hatred, or ~~not~~
~~unforgiving spirits~~ are allowed to
prevail, how can we speak of a

new birth, or regeneration. Nor can any
outward conformity to religious ordinances,
or acts of ~~kindness~~ charity, make
up for that change which must affect
not merely our outward conduct, but
the spiritual nature of man. You may,
brethren, regularly attend your Church
or even ~~be~~ at stated times the H. Communion;
You might appear devout & attentive;
when at the House of God & think yourself
much better than some of your neighbours,
but yet your heart might be absorbed
in the love of the world, the carnal self,
the spiritual mind might evil you.
Men may go far in a sort of outward
reformation & amend their ~~conduct~~ ^{ways in}
various particulars, so as not to be guilty
of the grosser sins of ~~others~~ ^{others}. There may
be much of ~~decency~~ ^{decency} for what is called
decency, propriety, respectability,
gentleness, courtesy & humanity in
a man's life & character, and yet
the heart may remain unchanged,

the notions may not be spiritual or pure,
in the eyes of God, the principles that
rule within may be the principles of
the world only; the love of the world, and the
love of the Father may have taken pos-
session of the heart. In the eyes of the
world men may often pass as religious
characters, as pious & ~~devout~~ ^{men}, yet in the
eyes of God, they ~~are~~ ^{may be} utterly wanting,
because strangers to that new creation
~~or genuine regeneration~~ which causes
old things to pass away & brings new
things, things of a higher nobler kind, to spring
^{up in your} ~~the heart~~.

or any
formal
observance
of religion

Let us not deceive ourselves,
dear brethren, with any ~~appearance~~
men apparent change, with any mere
external superficial unmeaning
~~or the mere~~ ^{external} ~~quest of religion~~ the form of
~~formalism~~. Whatever does not spring from
a new nature, whatever is not wrought
by grace Divine, whatever has not the
stamp & impress of God's H. Spirit
whatever does not come from love to God

& is not ~~permeated~~ by the overwhelming love
of Christ, however plausible the arguments
can never avail before him who seeks
for inward life & holiness, who judges men
not merely by outward ~~acts~~ ^{acts} ~~looks~~ ^{looks} ~~as they~~
~~appear~~, but according to the principles
& motives which have prompted them.

Let no one delude himself, ~~as of that~~ ^{with any}
~~any thing unless he is guided by that~~ ^{thing}
~~new creation spoken of in the text,~~ ^{chiefly}
~~where the new spiritual life is working~~ ^{a new}
~~where neither spiritual merits, nor~~ ^{spiritual}
~~spiritual wickednesses are the prevailing~~ ^{life &}
~~sentiments.~~ ^{spiritual}
^{minedness.}
But that we may judge
better still of what this new creation consists in
practically, let me describe the man that
has undergone this great change in some
of his ~~existing~~ ^{essential} ~~principal~~ character-
istics. In the first place, he is in Christ.
We must not lose sight of that. There
is between him & his blessed Lord
& Saviour a living & abiding union.
He has learned to ~~know~~ ^{know} so much of
the excellency & glory of Christ, so much

so much
of his
Divine
power &
foresight
and of
his human
perfection

of the Divine love manifested through Him,
~~so much of love pity benevolence & con-~~
~~descension in Christ's life & work on earth,~~
so much of ^{established} ~~his~~ a perfect pattern of holiness
& purity in all Christ's earthly career,
and yet at the same time his Divine
power & foresight have been so apparent
so strong, so majestic, so convincing
that he beholds in Him all he ^{needs} ~~can~~
~~all he can~~ ~~desire~~ ~~in this world~~, all that can satisfy his
the longing of his soul, a Saviour all sufficient.
~~perfect, good man~~, able & willing to save.
Hence he builds all his hope on him, confides
in his love & ^{saving grace} ~~power~~, ~~and is the more trusting~~
~~the subject, the more he contemplates its~~
~~properties significant~~ ^{the more he is} ~~satisfied~~ that his
preference is plain, the salvation he needs
~~the salvation he needs, & the victory he~~
~~won over sin death & grave - all is~~
~~complete as such as are so complete~~
as to remove all ^{his} doubts & fears, all
guilt & condemnation, ~~from a believing~~
~~heart. And~~ such is the overpowering love
of Christ working within him that the very

to his
humble
mind &
believing
heart all
is so complete

thought of Christ tender mercies were to quicken
to raise him to comfort & cheer him in
his hopes & prospects. He may say, indeed,
and will humbly confess it, ~~again~~ again
that he has not adhered to all he wishes at.
that he could ~~wish~~ ^{wish} he could love & adore more
~~more than he does his Lord & Master~~
that he might serve & glorify more his Lord & Master
great Mediator & mighty Redeemer. ^{his}
Nevertheless, he is able to speak, ^{he has}
with a grateful heart, of a wonderful ^{new views}
change, which has brought peace & ^{new views}
~~at seasons~~ & confidence to his soul. ^{he wishes}
He will even, whatever yet might be ^{all things}
wanting, that old things have passed ^{in a new}
away; the things I loved once, the sins ^{light &}
I harbored, the vain pleasures I once ^{forms a}
delighted in, the evil habits to which ^{disorder}
formerly I was addicted, the carnal ^{made of}
mind, the love of the world which, ere ^{things}
this, ruled me they no longer are ^{temporal}
allowed to entangle or ^{eternal}
to their attractions, they no longer ^{his journey}
grieve my heart, they no longer ^{meal of}
~~are a burden to me~~, I have crucified ^{this world,}
^{to prevent or} ^{the world}
^{to some,}
^{cliffers}
^{wisely}
^{from what}
^{it ever in}
^{tempest}

Second, my the flesh, I have put off the old man. From
brother can the old man from time to time assaults me
some of the & struggles for his ^{life} ~~redemption~~. But I daily
characterizing of those who are renewed in heart & soul. crucify the flesh, I daily & habitually fight
Let us persevere over them & against the indwelling sin & ~~the~~ ^{& infirmities} ~~the~~ ^{infirmities}
in laboring love; he of the old man. The world is crucified to
strives to overcome & conquer his flesh. me & I unto the world, so Paul could say
his flesh. of himself ~~that~~; he was a noble example
The study of God's word is to him of a mighty & successful change with whom
a rich source of pleasure & comfort. old things have indeed passed away
he delights in God's promises and strives to raise his heart & affection
from this world to things spiritual & eternal; he takes pleasure
in serving God & glorifying Christ. He engages