2028

2027

2026

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

2025

2024

We already know it: no matter how hard we try, New Year's resolutions usually don't make it past the first few months. But why?

Although sheer willpower may be formidable, just because I declare that this year will be different from last year doesn't mean that it will be. As we enter a new year, if everything else remains the same, there will hardly be any different results.

For there to be a major change in habits and their results, there must first be a major change in the source of those habits, in the person themselves. That's where the Lord Jesus Christ comes in. **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"** (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 NKJV). This is what we all seek this new year! A truly fresh beginning; for the past to be left behind. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only one capable of bringing about a fundamental change in a person.

Human beings, no matter how hard we try, can't stop being sinners. The stain of sin ruins everything. Are you tired of failing, of never being able to achieve true change? And not only in your New Year's resolutions, but also in your way of life. That sin into which one so easily falls, the guilt that doesn't go away, the frustration that no matter how hard one tries, one can't change.

Let's look at the meaning of 2 Corinthians 5:17...

"In Christ." God no longer sees the person as a sinner but as Christ, without sin (COLOSSIANS 1:22). This is possible because Christ took the place and punishment of every sinner, and when a sinner is saved, God considers them to be **"in Christ."**

"A new creation." This means that one is born again (JOHN 3:3,7). Although one remains with the same physical body, God gives a new spiritual beginning.

"Old things have passed away." God forgives all sin completely and immediately. What's past remains in the past. The con-

sequences cannot be avoided (for example, lung cancer from smoking), but the person no longer faces the eternal punishment for those sins because Christ took them upon Himself.

"All things have become new." This is what is truly new. A clean slate, a new heart (EZEKIEL 36:26), a new spirit (EPHESIANS 1:13), a new family (JOHN 1:12), a new direction (ROMANS 8:1), Heaven instead of eternal punishment (JOHN 3:16), and a new purpose in life: to honour the Lord instead of serving oneself (GALATIANS 2:20). This is the true change we all seek, perhaps without knowing it. Christ offers you a new beginning impossible to obtain elsewhere: salvation. **DO YOU WANT TO BE SAVED?**

by Ricky Sawatzky

Brody Thibodeau
Call or Text 902 206 1453
Email bwthib@gmail.com

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