

December 31, 2022

New Life in Christ

[Titus 2:11-14](#)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Temptation is always lurking; the devil in disguise, trying to get us to deny and defy Christ. Social media and the internet can make it so easy to stray from our godly intentions. It sometimes takes intentional work to say “No” to the things of this world, and to say “Yes” to God’s ways.

When I turn my head or divert my eyes from the man with the sign asking for help, does Jesus nod understandingly? When I pay all my bills before giving my first fruits to God, does He understand and smile?

The more I pray for people and situations, the more I pray with people, the closer God feels and the more I feel Him smiling. Anytime I’m in prayer or being God’s hands is the time I’m giving Satan a mighty migraine, as my pastor encourages us to do every Sunday in his benediction.

New life in Christ is often represented by a butterfly. There’s just something inspiring about that cycle of life.

Our lives often follow a similar cycle. We begin as an egg in the womb, born as an innocent being, then grow and are affected by the world.

But, thanks be to God, we can be born again, and start a new life. Does it mean we won’t be affected by the world? No, but we are now *in* the world, not *of* the world.

A new year, a new life, both in Christ. This is my prayer for you.

Prayer: *Father, show me where I can be your light. Show me to see with the eyes of my heart. Help me to see you in unexpected places, because, after all, you’re everywhere. Help me love too much to give space for hate. In Jesus’s name I pray. Amen.*

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