

2 Corinthians 5:1-15 (NASB)

1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.

4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—

7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—

8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

12 We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have *an answer* for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.

13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Therefore, in verse 6 refers back to verse 1

- We have a new body built by God in heaven waiting
- We groan because we want to be in the new body
- We don't want to be found naked
- We have been given the Holy Spirit as a guarantee

Therefore, in verse 10 refers back to verse 6

- We are always courageous because we know being in this body we are not with the Lord
- We walk by faith

Therefore, in verse 11 refers back to verses 9-10

- We are ambitious to be pleasing to Him
- We are to appear before the judgment seat of Christ

Therefore, in verse 16 refers back to verses 11-15

- Knowing the reverential fear of the Lord
- We persuade men
- We are not again commending ourselves to you
- We are giving you an occasion to be proud of us
- So that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart
- We are not crazy
- We are of sound mind for you
- The love of Christ controls us because we know
- One died for all
- All were dead
- He died so that we might no longer live for ourselves but for Him Who died and rose again.

*16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.
(by what man is in the flesh) according to the flesh*

How many different kinds of people exist on the earth today if we look at them **not** according to the flesh?

Two: lost and saved

If looked at according to the flesh there are hundreds of differences and growing all the time.

16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

John 20:17 (NASB)

17 Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

to fasten to, i.e. (special) to set on fire : kindle, light.

Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

Mary had known Christ according to the flesh, and she thought that she was going to still know Him in that regard. But it is not so. Going forward we know no one after the flesh.

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new

creature; the old things passed away; behold, new
John 3:3 (NASB)

3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless
one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Romans 6:4 (NASB)

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into
death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of
the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Galatians 6:15 (NASB)

15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a
new creation.

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Does this not mean a new kind of creature, as the Word implies?

Do we go back to Adam, the innocent man in the garden in which God set him to take care of and have dominion over?

No, that would be no creature new in kind. Adam even, pure and good before his fall, was yet of the earth, earthy.

Is the Lord Jesus just the first man refurbished and set up afresh?

No, He is the second man, the Lord from heaven.

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

He is a heavenly man,

The Last Adam

The head of a new race

The beginning of a new creation -

And you and I who believe, are 'in Him,' seen and accepted before the Father 'in His Beloved.'

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

- After the termination of the first creation on the Cross, the Last Adam was free to rise as the Head and Life of the spiritual, eternal, all-new creation.
- He stepped out on resurrection ground bearing in His heart every single believer whom by death He has separated from the first Adam.
- The first creation began with the heavens and the earth, followed by the creation of the earthly man,
- The "new creation" began with the heavenly Man, to be followed by the new heavens and the new earth.

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

- ***"These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God" (Rev. 3:14).***
- Each believer's relationship to the fallen Adam race was terminated at the Cross. ***"Our old (Adamic) man was crucified with him. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:6; 6:5).***
- Risen, the Lord Jesus ***"is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning the firstborn from the dead" (Col. 1:18).***
- No restoration, no reformation of the old, but a totally new beginning from death unto eternal life. ***"Therefore, we were buried with him by baptism into death, that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).***

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

"Old things are passed away";

- It is impossible that we should have at the same time a standing in Adam to answer for ourselves (law), and a standing in the Lord Jesus who has answered for us (grace).
- It is the total relegation, morally, for faith of the former and abolished creation, now no longer acknowledged, and carrying with it a final repudiation of the flesh and its activities.
- What a thorough perfect, deliverance this is!
- It is God's solution for us of every problem as to our relation morally to man's world. ***"I have died in the death of Christ."*** As the reckoning of faith, and in the same reckoning, the "***old things,***" in which the life of the first man found gratification, "***have passed away.***" MJS

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

- We are chosen in the Lord Jesus,
- We have redemption in Him,
- We are made near to God,
- We are sealed,
- We are blessed,
- We are accepted,
- We are seated in Him,
- In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, etc.

"Having put on the new (man), renewed into full knowledge, according to the image of him that has created him, wherein there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free, but Christ is all, and in all" (Col. 3:10, 11).

Millennial saint generally implies, is a man for earth.

- Millennial saint is *"born of water and of Spirit."*
- He believes in Christ.
- All his sins carried into the land of forgetfulness, and he is assured that God has given to him the things on the earth to possess.
- The law is written in his heart: *"I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."*
- Millennial saint not only delights in the law of God but it is his nature; the resistance within has been removed and there is no opposition from without, and the Holy Spirit in him maintains him therein.
- Millennial saint loves God with all his heart and his neighbor as himself, while touching all the commandments and ordinances of the law, he is blameless; he is free of any fear of death or judgment; assured by the presence of Him who has the keys of death and hell.
- In all the sacrifices he calls to mind the death of Christ as the only ground and security for all his blessing; he is *"like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."* (Psalm 1:3).

When we have a true idea of a Millennial saint, we are ready to say that there cannot be anything more, and, in fact, with Christians generally, nothing beyond it is aimed at or expected.

The Christian

- Is not after the flesh.
- He is not earthy.
- He is heavenly and spiritual. *As is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.*
- There is nothing of the first man of any nature or quality; Christ is everything and in all.
- The Christian is a man of new and different tastes and order.
- There is nothing to correct or improve in the new man. “*He has put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.*” (Colossians 3:10).
- A Christian led by the Spirit is a manifestation of Christ; he surpasses the Millennial man.
- It is clearly shown that the nearer we are to God, the more we answer to every desire of His heart, and this, thank God, **for the Christian is *par excellence*.**