

## Making All Things New!

*"The new coming on, you shall cast away the old." Leviticus 26:10*

This week the Christian church throughout the world celebrates the Epiphany of Christ. The word "epiphany" means "showing forth" or "manifesting." How does the "showing forth" or "manifesting" of Jesus make all things new? Just as the morning sun dispels the darkness of night, so does Jesus Christ dispel the darkness of sin and allow us to see the light of truth. Before the coming of Jesus, man had only a partial and incomplete knowledge of God, truth and reality. With the "appearing" and "manifesting" of Jesus, man was given full and accurate truth about God, truth, and reality.



John 1:9 teaches that Jesus is "the True Light which enlightens every man." 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." The key to finding newness of life is Jesus Himself. We must come to the end of ourselves—and trust Jesus to live His life through us.

Some of you are tired of trying to find a new life but failing again and again. You may think, "If only I read the Bible more and pray more, I will succeed. I will make a new resolution and re-double my will-power." Bible-reading and prayer are indispensable resources in the Christian life, but they are not ends in themselves. They are a means to the end of finding our help in Jesus—who is the object of that reading and prayer. We must not trust in ourselves, or in the Bible, or prayers, or anything that we do. We must trust in Jesus alone. From start to finish, He is the One who does it all.

Let's remember how we become Christians in the first place. We become true followers of Jesus Christ by realizing that there is nothing we can do to please a holy God. We acknowledge that we were born sinners and are powerless to save our own souls. Therefore, we look to Jesus on the Cross and see in His finished work for us the gift of salvation. His atoning sacrifice for sin is the answer to our need. We believe upon Him and wholeheartedly trust His death in our place.

If we can trust Christ for our salvation, why don't we trust Him for daily living? Because too often followers of Jesus try to live a godly life in their own strength. We stop depending upon Jesus. We think we can direct our own lives and accomplish some good apart from leaning hard upon Him. So God has to engineer our circumstances to get us to the point of desperation where we cry, "I can't do this!" Once we admit our helplessness, God is overjoyed to rush to our aid by turning our eyes back to Jesus. He reminds us that only because Jesus died on the Cross do we have forgiveness of sins, new life, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. "Nothing in my hands I bring, only to thy Cross I cling." Salvation is all about Jesus—His death, His resurrection, His ascension to heaven, His Words of truth and life. If we can depend upon Jesus to start us on the path of salvation, we can trust Him to guide us safely every step of the way to heaven.

If you are tired of failing and struggling, you have come to a good place. All of us have been there before. Admit you can't direct your own life. Tell God that you are powerless to do any good—and start *really* trusting Jesus.