

Mount Zion Sermon 23/6/2019 - New

Warning - This sermon may/will require congregational interaction – are you ready

Question

Is it possible to have something New out of something 'Old'

If so how long does it last for and are there any conditions .

Even something New will have a time limited lifespan

There is something about the word '**New**' that generates optimism, excitement and anticipation

Probably everyone here this evening enjoys the experience of something New

Including :-

- New Job
- New Kitchen or other house upgrades
- New Clothes
- New Relationship
- New Knee or Hip replacement (my mother would love new knees and shoulders)
- New Car
- New holiday experience or just an experience
- Some just wait for a New compliment or perhaps just a compliment

In modern society Christmas in general is the biggest introducer of '**New**' things – 6 months later they are at best old or worn out, second hand and lost its core value or become worthless

Of course and in general the word **New** is accompanied by

1. An action on our part
2. An associated Cost

3. There is no History
4. No scratches or blemishes
5. We have Reliability
6. Be desired by other people – keeping up with the Jones’s
7. Some people but not all have an in built desire to continually satisfy the need to accumulate, replace or refresh their belongings
8. You can even make a career about generating New items for instance 7th June 2019 New Look founder Tom Singh steps down after half a century in fast fashion
9. But Why is it that once we have something new we get used to it and at some point in time it is replaced again

This week I drove a new car

- Only 50 miles on the clock
- Good to have a new car, no history, no hidden faults, no unexpected bills. But takes time to get to know the new vehicle
- Its Reliable
- Everything just works
- Interestingly - M5 – Loads of brand new cars – but not used - just waiting... there is a message there
- Having something new comes at a cost
- There are many new different types of car to cater for all individual tastes and budgets.
- Takes time to get to know the new car and its gadgets
- This is different from the Lord he has selected us at the same cost, but you are new and unique

So I thank the Lord that all of us here today have experienced **New** things whether large or small

More so..... **I thank the Lord for the teachings of the New Testament that has been available since Christ walked our precious earth**

A New Message

Throughout the gospel we read that Jesus gave a **New** message

There is something special about this **New** message

A message of Hope, Peace, contentment, healing, encouragement, New Birth and everlasting life, not a message of self advancement or empty promises... does that ring any bells

Life brings with it many ups and downs, disappointments, anxiety, frustration, loneliness, heart ache, financial concerns, poor health, disability, depression and desperation

No doubt there are people here this evening that could write their own book

The level of which only the individual themselves know the true level of pain they are suffering.

However, Pain and suffering have been in existence since the beginning of time.

We read in

[Job 30:27](#)

The churning inside me never stops; days of **suffering** confront me.

The Lord knows all of our situations. Our tears of joy and our tears of pain. There is no situation that we are in today that the Lord doesn't know about and care about.

And we are all going through our very own situations today

[Romans 15:13](#)

May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust **in him**, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Today the journey of Life seems at odds with the Gospel

Man tends to think about himself and the Lord tends to think about you as well

Man tends to think about the outward gain in terms of appearance, visual material gain, ambition and self promotion. Success is measured by the material, but as Mike said last week, it doesn't really matter what you possess from a material point of view because its only 'borrowed'

So here is the Question -How do we become transformed from a Me person to a New Me Person

Answer - Well the answer is surprisingly simple

But lets have a Quick memory test

Think about your Date Of Birth

When were you were born and what time and date

But If I was to ask you **when** were you Reconciled to God and Spiritually **born again** and we you the word saved

- what year,
- what month
- where was it and can you remember the Sermon. Would you be able to answer

If you are Born again you are in New Creation

For me it was October 1984, a Sunday, but I can't remember the Sermon only the need to put myself right with God and acknowledge that I was a sinner in the eyes of Christ

Can you remember having the reassurance from the Lord that your sins are forgiven

I remember feeling so overwhelmed by the Gospel message that I had no option but to invite Christ into my heart

I knew that listening to the gospel message was a serious act, demanding my full attention. I knew straight away of the consequences and warning of dismissing the word of Christ as just another conversation.

It was the day of reckoning the day to put myself right with Christ and to make a decision to be **Born Again**

But why did I feel so compelled to become Born Again, why did I feel it necessary to change the direction of my life, what did I gain, what have I lost

The following scriptures help me to understand the importance of being **Born Again**

1. The Kingdom of God

[John 3 \[Full Chapter\]](#)

[*Jesus Teaches Nicodemus*] Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again.**”

So we see here the consequence of not being **Born Again** unless you are Born Again you will not see the Kingdom of God

2. But what about Eternal Life

John 3

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”^[g]

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The warning

³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Revelation 20:15 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

The scripture is clear in that you have to believe In Christ to have eternal life, if you haven't asked the Lord for the forgiveness of your sins you still stand condemned even though you may have been coming to Church for years

3. So what happens when I am Born Again

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new creation** has come: The old has gone, the **new** is here!

Vs 21

God made him who had no sin to be sin^[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

[1 Peter 1:23](#)

For you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

4. The Lord Jesus Christ has done it all

Ephesians 2 Vs 8

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast

We see here the power of the Cross, Christ who was pure and sinless took upon himself all of our sins to reconcile us to God.

While on holidays we went to a couple of Churches and marvelled at the craftsmanship and sheer beauty of the building. The time, effort, dedication and passion that went into the building.

It is rare today for a New beautiful church to be built these days but as Christians our whole being needs to reflect Christ.

Being Born again is a beautiful thing, it brings us reconciliation to Christ, eternal life and as we read our bibles and pray, we will become more Christlike in attitude, commitment and nature thus fulfilling our New relationship with Christ as a Child of God

But it isn't automatic, we need to do our bit. For me it was October 1984

For those of you who haven't accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour Will your Born Again Date of Birth be Sunday 23rd June 2019 at 6pm

The day you have been reconciled to God and your past sins have been washed away

Amen