

Newness of Life

Hal Lindsey popularized dispensationalism through his books and ministry. One of the items in his book “The Late Great Planet Earth” is an interpretation of the book of Daniel concerning the revived Roman empire.

We know that the next prophetic event to take place is the rapture of all born again believers in Jesus Christ. Yet, we realize that the prophecies that will be fulfilled in the Tribulation, which follows the rapture, depend upon certain geopolitical alignments. Events that seem to be taking place before our eyes.

I have taught that the return of Jews to Israel is likely the initial part of the gathering of Jews in unbelief prophesied in the Bible. Just the existence of the nation Israel is setting the stage for the return. Israel’s ancient enemies are being reconstituted.

Currently, there is no Roman empire. France and Germany are the preeminent countries in Europe. Yet, currently, both are under great strain economically.

We know that the rapture is imminent. It has been imminent since the apostle Paul’s day. It begs the question. Will Rome once again become the center of power in Europe?

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Romans 6:1-4

Location. Location. Location.

You may have seen this warning on Facebook concerning your eternal location. If you have believed in Jesus Christ as your savior, then you will be in heaven. Good Location. Otherwise, you will end up in the Lake of Fire (Hell). Not Good Location.

Some try to make light of location in “Hell.” They are sure they will have a party with all their friends. No, there will be no parties in the Lake of Fire. Just the first step towards the Lake of Fire, known as “Torments” caused the rich man to beg Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers. It is a terrible place. But it is a place that was “chosen” because a person rejected salvation in Jesus Christ.

Paul makes that point. There is a need for salvation. And that salvation is “in Christ” by faith in Jesus. In Romans chapters 6-8, Paul says that as believers we have position “in Christ Jesus.” So act in recognition of that fact. Location, Location, Location. In time. Here and now.

As believers, we have a location in Christ that not only looks forward to eternity but looks at a responsibility here and now.

Being out of fellowship, under the voluntary control of the Sin Nature is no party. You short circuit any blessings God has for you in time. Being out of fellowship also has impact in eternity. Loss of rewards.

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

We were here last week. Since God provides increased grace to keep us alive when we sin. But, that should not motivate us to sin more.

Romans 6:2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

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Paul's answer to that is a very strong negative in the Greek: "May it never be!" We have "died" to sin. The Old Man is Dead. But the sin nature is alive. The constant domination of the sin nature over you was broken at the point of faith in Jesus. We died to sin. The meaning of death here is "separation." We have been separated from sin with the addition of a human spirit and the indwelling Holy Spirit. We have the choice of going back and being a slave to the sin nature or choosing to walk in faith dependence to the Holy Spirit. A slave to righteousness. Choose wisely.

**Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us
who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
have been baptized into His death?**

We dealt with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus placed us into His body, "in Christ Jesus" through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 6:4 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.**

Raised from the dead. This is a description of the resurrection. The great chapter on resurrection, 1 Corinthians chapter 15, uses this word or a form of it 19 times!

Baptism. This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus places us into "in Christ Jesus" through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit. This baptism is unique to the Dispensation of the Church. Because of it, we share many of Jesus' possessions. As a result of our position in Christ we have a mandate to walk in righteousness.

Newness of Life Romans 6:1-4

So we might walk in newness of life. So that...here is the purpose of our association with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. Our purpose is to walk in newness of life. Walk, as Herman and I have said several times, is how we are to order our lives. As believers we are to order our lives according to Christian principles that are commanded in the New Testament. The commands can only be accomplished by faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Newness. One would expect an adjective here. Instead this is a noun. Per Leon Morris, “ “Newness” is not what we would have expected. The corresponding adjective “new” was available, and Paul uses it seven times. The unusual expression puts some emphasis on the quality of newness.¹”

For me, the construction of the Greek phrase, “in newness of life” is interesting. It starts with “in” which in Greek is *en*. “Newness” is a noun in the dative case. But it has the same ending as instrumental and locative. Instrumental might translate as by means of the newness of life. OK. But the locative makes more sense to me, “in the sphere of the newness of life.”

Daniel Wallace translates this as “new life” with the understanding that ““newness of life” has a stronger force than “new life.”²”

Because we have been transformed from the dead Old Man to the New Man in Christ Jesus we now live a new kind of life. We are to live in the newness of this life.

1 Morris, L. (2001). *The Epistle to the Romans*. Leicester, England: Apollos ; Grand Rapids, Mich. p249

2 Wallace, D.B. (1996). *Greek grammar beyond the basics an exegetical syntax of the New Testament ; with scripture, subject and Greek word indexes*. Grand Rapids, Mich. Zondervan [20]08. p90

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Newness of life is not the only “new” thing mentioned in the “New” Testament.

1. The New Man. Ephesians 4:24

Ephesians 4:24 and put on the new self (man), which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self (man implied by the context) who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

2. Newness of life. Romans 6:4

Romans 6:4 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.

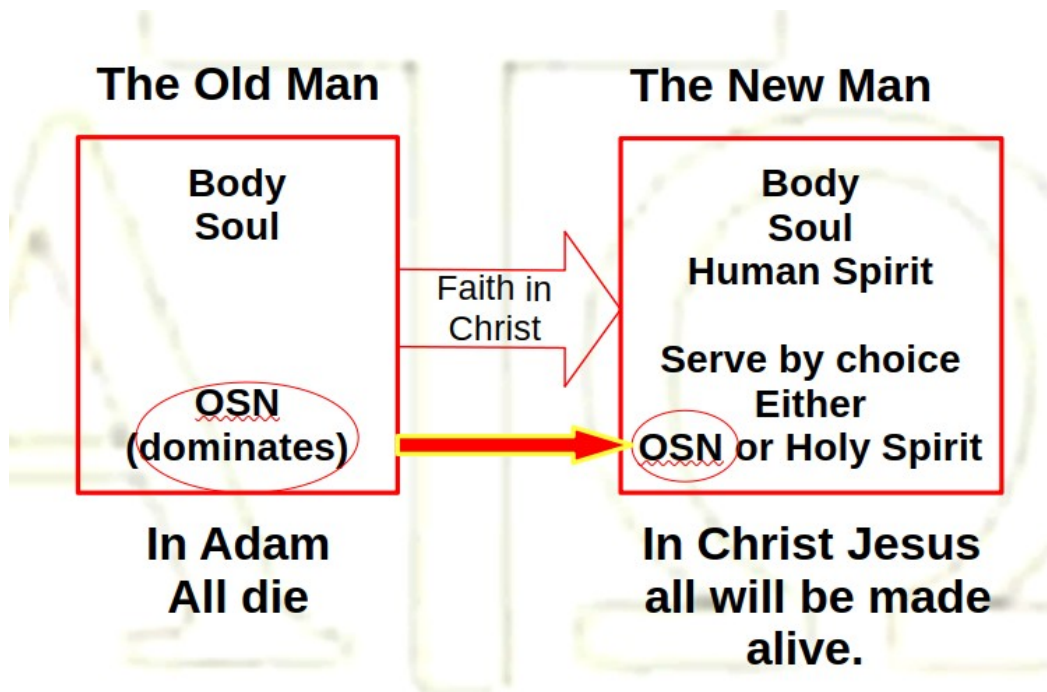
3. New creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Old Man → Faith → New Man → Newness of Life

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1. Foundation. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit places us “in Christ Jesus.” The result is that we share not just benefits leading into eternity but we share in Jesus death, burial and resurrection with implications for our lives here and now.
2. Ability. Because the Old Man is dead, because the complete domination of the sin nature has been broken and the because we have a New Man with a human spirit, the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the option of being empowered by the Holy Spirit we can live in newness of life.
3. Mandate. Because we can live in newness of life we should.
4. Mandate. Paul in Romans chapter 6 says it is imperative that we do this.
5. Instruction. Paul in Romans 6-8 shows us how to live.



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As a result of now being a “new man” we now have a new life. We live this life in the sphere or in the location of our “new man.” Unfortunately, we can choose to revert to being dominated by the sin nature a remnant from the Old Man.

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from	Penalty of sin	Power of sin	Presence of sin
Scripture	Ephesians 2:8-9 Titus 3:5	Philippians 2:12 Romans 6	Hebrews 9:28 Romans 13:11

There are “parallel” passages that figure into the fabric of Scripture. Paul says similar things in Colossians and Ephesians. I only review the Colossians passage.

Colossians 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Raised up with. This is a single word in the Greek. It is based upon the same word for “raise up,” i.e. resurrection as is found in Romans 6:4. Interesting. In Romans 6:4 Christ was raised. The implication, though not specifically stated is that we were raised up with Christ. Here Paul adds to our knowledge and specifically says we were raised up with Christ. We also learn from Romans 6:4 that it is God the Father who raised up Jesus.

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By the Baptism of the Holy Spirit we were placed into Christ. We were permanently separated from the Old Man. We were separated from the sin nature. A synonym for separation, usually in a good sense, is sanctification. That is a description of the Christian life. We have been separated to Christ. We belong to Him.

If you work for a prestigious company, there is a code of conduct. Violating that code of conduct can get an employee fired. We are Christians in Christ. We have a code of conduct. We cannot be “fired.” We have eternal security. But divine discipline is God’s response to our continued sinning.

Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Interesting. Here Paul focuses our attention on heavenly things in contrast to earthly things. You are in two places at the same time. On the one hand, you are still in your human bodies in the world. But we are not of the world. Our citizenship is in heaven where we reside “in Christ.”

Colossians 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Again, Paul uses the word “died” to indicate death to our previous self—the Old Man.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Our life is Christ. We are “in Christ” so we should live accordingly. Faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Instead of saying we are dead to sin, as he does in Romans chapter 6, Paul here names some specific sins.

Here are some points that tie some of this together.

1. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit at the point of our faith in Jesus is regeneration. We receive a human spirit. This allows us to understand and use spiritual information from the Bible.
2. This happened at the point of salvation.
3. The resurrection is then another perspective of our new life. Regeneration makes us spiritually alive. But the resurrection, baptism of the Holy Spirit and position “in Christ” provides motivation and direction to our Christian lives. We are not just a “bump on a log” spiritually. We have a code of conduct and a mission in life. “We are on a mission from God.”
4. This is by grace and therefore through faith of the believer.
5. By virtue of being raised with Christ we now have a new relationship with Him. It is this relationship plus all the blessings we receive at the point of faith which now can focus our lives on the “things above.”

Here are some points from Herman on the Colossians chapter 3 passage³.

People, there are so many important things about Jesus Christ we need to know. That He is God; as God became man at the incarnation, lived a

³ https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Colossians/notes/2018-05-20Sunday_Morning.pdf

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perfect life—sinless therefore qualified to go to the cross. His Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension and Session.

Where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God

1. This is where your home is therefore should be where your heart dwells upon.
2. This introduces an amazing reality of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Being seated at the right hand of God, He has the place and power to provide us with everything spiritual we need in this life. As in **Col. 2:19 from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God**
As in **John 14:3 I go to prepare a place for you...**and when He comes, He comes to take us back with Him that we may be together with Him for all eternity.
As in **John 17:24 “Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**
3. So that when we appeal to Jesus Christ through His Spirit, we have access to the Throne of God. His being seated at the right hand of God sets up a two way blessing: Him to us, and us to Him.