

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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## MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Tom & Janice Crawford | Indonesia



### PRAY

- Pray for Simply Jesus Baptist Church in Jakarta. As the Crawfords are in the states for a two months, the faithful members are teaching and preaching. Pray that this is a season of growth for the church and these individuals.
- Pray for Grace Baptist Church and School in Batam. Brother Andar’s wife (Lestari) had a severe heart attack. Pray for her recovery and that the Lord provides people to fill roles in the ministry during their recovery.
- Pray for a tax situation in Indonesia and the taxing of religious gifts in Indonesia.
- Pray for the Crawfords safety as they travel around to churches on the east coast.

The NEW YOU



Handout: 12/31/23

Study Date: 01/07/24

## The New You Spiritually

2 Corinthians was a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. In this letter Paul urges his readers to live out and apply their faith. One of his common messages is showing how Jesus is greater than the temporary suffering experienced in this life.

In 2 Corinthians 5 Paul encourages his readers to keep their eyes on the eternal prize and not the temporary things in this life. He uses his life as an example; he continually suffers for preaching the Gospel. But he doesn’t stop; he keeps showing people God’s love.

Paul’s argument in this chapter is that we should have the same mindset (2 Corinthians 5:6). We should focus on the eternal prize that’s waiting for us. **We should live by faith and not by sight.**

**THEREFORE IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST!**

Whenever you see a “therefore” you should pause and ask, “what is this there for?” They often reveal some incredible truth.

Typically “therefore’s” represent a culmination of a previous thought that is now built to a conclusion. *Because God did this, we should do this...*

In this case Paul is drawing a conclusion from **2 Corinthians 5:11-16**. Paul here is talking about Christ’s love for us and how that compels us to step into the life he has for us. He reminds his readers that Jesus’ love was so great that he died on the cross for us.

**THE NEW CREATION HAS COME (THE OLD IS GONE)!**

When we place our faith in Jesus we become a new creation. Obviously there are things that don’t change in this new creation. We keep our physical features, our personality, family, and are still susceptible to sin. Those things don’t change in this new creation.

Other things do change. Our view of life, our priorities, our perspectives, our shame, and the things that once entrapped us all change. Not only that, but this new life brings with it peace and joy. In essence, we can live life as God intended.

But maybe the biggest change in this new creation is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We have God living in us. The Holy Spirit directs, guides, protects, and comforts us. We are truly a new creation.

A new creation also means that there is an old creation that is passing. We once filled our lives with things other than God that promised us peace, happiness, and joy. But they ended up robbing us. They didn’t bring life, rather death.

When we step into the life God has for us these things pass away so that new life can come. A follower of Jesus is a new creation. We were once governed by our sinful nature, but now we live by the spirit.

While from the outside we may look the same, it’s what is on the inside that has changed. In Christ we have a new purpose, new mission, new freedom, and incredible joy. Those who are in Jesus are an entirely new creation.

Resource: Jeffrey Curtis Poor

## KEY VERSE

II Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:11-13**

### Be Certain Of Your Salvation

1. When people ask you “how do you know you are saved?” How “exactly” do you respond to them?
2. How does I John 5:13 “confirm” our salvation as believers? What does God promise us in this verse?

**Tuesday: James 4:8; Psalm 26:2**

### Take Responsibility For Your Spiritual Growth

3. In James 4:8 believers are called to “draw near to Him.” How do YOU execute this in YOUR daily life?
4. As a believer, what is YOUR testimony of a time when God “tried your mind and your heart”? How did YOU grow spiritually from it?

**Wednesday: John 17:17; Job 23:12**

### Read The Bible Every Day

5. How often do YOU open the Word of God?
6. John 17:17 states “Sanctify them by Your truth.” How could reading God’s Word *every day* impact your “walk” and ultimately your sanctification?

**Thursday: Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9; Acts 3:19**

### Confess Your Sins To God

7. What does Proverbs 28:13 tell us about trying to “cover” our sins? Does it ever benefit us *spiritually* to do so?
8. What does I John 1: 9 tell us we will “gain” by confessing our sin?
9. While I John 1:9 calls us to *confession*, we are also called to *repent* (Acts 3:19). How do YOU define the relationship between the two?

**Friday: Hebrews 10:24-25; Philippians 3:13-14; I Corinthians 12:27**

### Fully Engage With Your Church And Set Goals For Your Spiritual Life

10. Explain what is meant by being “in the body of Christ” in I Corinthians 12:27.
11. What, from YOUR point of view is the *central message* of Hebrews 10:24-25? What is it teaching us?
12. Philippians 3:13-14 gives us a “clearly defined” goal to pursue in life. That being said, what are 3 spiritual goals you have for 2024?