



January 2018

From the Pastor



New and Becoming New

It is a New Year. It seems amazing that we are in the eighteenth year of the new millennium. We are privileged to experience the turn of a millennium. Things have changed since the start of 2000. Consider all that has changed in your life in these past eighteen years. Some changes have been quick, like the purchase of a new car, but many have been slow, like the growth of a tree in the backyard. Being a Christian is like that. When you first become a Christian, your life immediately changes. Consider what it says in the letter to the Romans.

³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:3-4 ESV)

As we come to Jesus, we are immediately free from sin. We can walk according to ways the Holy Spirit would want us to walk. Immediately we are filled with the Holy Spirit and are empowered by Him.

As a Christian we also grow into the changes. Consider what was written in the letter to the Philippians.

^{18b} Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I

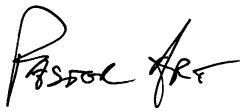


will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. (Philippians 1:18b-20 ESV)

With the help of the of Holy Spirit, we live out the life God calls us to live out. It is not immediate; it is a growing deliverance into this new life. We live with the expectation that we will be what God expects of us.

As we come into the new year, let's remember that God has made us new, and we grow into that newness, all through the work of the Holy Spirit. We know this is possible, because we have our hope in God.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.