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**P R E A C H T H E G O S P E L A T
A L L T I M E S A N D W H E N
N E C E S S A R Y U S E W O R D S .
~ F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I**




THE NEW MAN IS BEING RENEWED

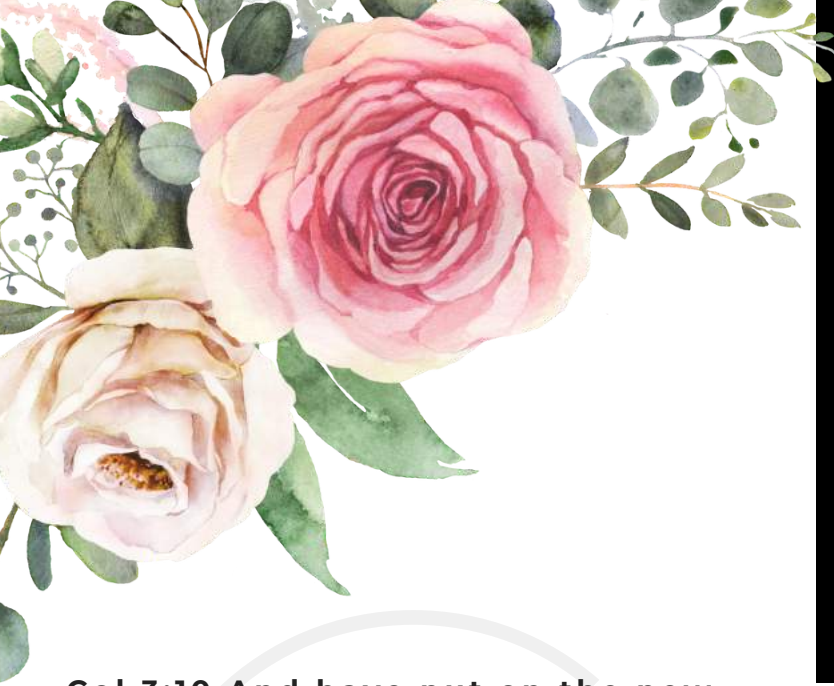
Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

In Ephesians 2 we are told that the new man was created, but in Colossians 3:10 we are told that the new man is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Although Ephesians and Colossians are sister books, what they say concerning the new man is not exactly the same. How can we say that, on the one hand, the new man is created and that, on the other hand, the new man is renewed? Because we who belong to the old creation were involved in the creation of the new man, he needs to be renewed. This renewing takes place mainly in our mind, as indicated by the phrase "unto full knowledge." In our spirit the new man has already been

created. Before the new man was created in our spirit in resurrection, we did not have the Spirit of God or the life of God within us. Although we had a spirit, our spirit did not contain the divine life. But at the time the new creation took place in our spirit in resurrection, the Holy Spirit with the divine life was added into our being. This addition of the Spirit and the divine life to our spirit produced a new being, the new man. For this reason we can say that in our spirit the new man has been created. In Colossians Paul uses the phrase "full knowledge" three times (1:10; 2:2; 3:10). The problem with the Colossians was that they had the wrong kind of knowledge. They had taken in philosophies that were not according to Christ. Now in 3:10 he speaks of full knowledge according to the image, the expression, the fullness, of God. Concerning the new man, our mind needs to be renewed unto such a full knowledge according to the Christ who is the expression of the invisible God. Our mind needs to be renewed to such an extent that



we have a clear view of Christ as the image of God. Few Christians have a proper understanding of the Christ unveiled in the book of Colossians. Their minds have not been renewed unto such a full knowledge of Him. As a result, many Christians today have been misled, deluded, and defrauded, just as the Colossians were. (c) 2007 Living Stream Ministry.



THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST LEADS US TO LOVE HIM

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

In Ephesians we see that the new man was created in our spirit with the elements of the divine life and the Holy Spirit. These elements have been added into our being to produce a new creation. In Colossians, however, the new man is being renewed in our minds unto full knowledge according to Christ as the image of God. When our mind is filled with the knowledge of the all-inclusive Christ, our emotion will be influenced. This will cause us to have a greater appreciation of the Lord Jesus. For example, a child may have a greater appreciation for a velvet box than for the diamond ring in the box. In the child's mind there is no knowledge of the value of the diamond ring. But as the child grows, he will have a

greater appreciation for the ring. Eventually, he will want to keep the ring and throw the box away. Love is a matter of the emotion, and the emotion is related to the understanding we have in the mind. If we have little understanding of a certain thing, we shall not have much appreciation of it. This will make it impossible for us to love that thing. But when our mind concerning that thing is renewed, our emotion with its love will be renewed also. When the mind is renewed, the emotion is spontaneously renewed as well. Our experience confirms this. Both in spiritual experience and in human experience, the mind affects the emotion, and the emotion affects the will. We need to be renewed in our mind in order to have a proper love for the Lord in our emotion. Many saints are cold toward the Lord because in their minds they do not have much knowledge of Him. The more we have the knowledge of the all-inclusive Christ, the more we shall appreciate Him and love Him. (c) 2007 LSM

WHO WAS HEROD IN THE GOSPEL?

Herod “the Great” ruled as king of the Jews under Roman authority for thirty-three years, from 37–4 BC. It is this Herod who appears in the account of Jesus’ birth (Matt. 2:1–19; Luke 1:5).

From the start, Herod proved to be an extraordinary political survivor. When civil war broke out in Rome between Mark Antony and Octavian, Herod first sided with Antony and his ally Cleopatra VII, queen of Egypt. Then, when Octavian defeated Antony and Cleopatra at Actium in 31 BC, Herod immediately switched sides, convincing Octavian of his loyalty.

Under the patronage of Octavian—now Caesar Augustus—Herod’s position as king of the Jews was secure. For his Roman soldier part, Herod would prove to be a loyal subject to his Roman overlords, maintaining order

in Israel and protecting the western flank of the Roman Empire.

Herod was a strange mix of a clever and efficient ruler and a cruel tyrant. On the one hand, he was distrustful, jealous, and brutal, ruthlessly crushing any potential opposition. The Jews never accepted him as their legitimate king, and this infuriated him. He constantly feared conspiracy. He executed his wife when he suspected she was plotting against him. Three of his sons, another wife, and his mother-in-law met the same fate when they too were suspected of conspiracy.

Herod, trying to be a legitimate Jew, would not eat pork, but he freely murdered his sons! Matthew’s account of Herod’s slaughter of the infants in Bethlehem fits well with what we know of the king’s ambition, paranoia, and cruelty (Matt. 2:1–18).

Herod wasn’t all bad. He presented himself as the protector of Judaism and sought to gain the favor of the Jews. He encouraged the development of the synagogue communities and in time of calamity remitted taxes and supplied the people with free grain.

He was also a great builder, a role which earned him the title "the Great." His greatest project was the rebuilding and beautification of the temple in Jerusalem, restoring it to even greater splendor than in the time of Solomon.

Judea prospered economically during Herod's reign. He extended Israel's territory through conquest and built fortifications to defend the Roman frontiers.

Herod was a committed Hellenist and an admirer of Roman culture. He built Greek-style theaters, amphitheatres, and hippodromes (outdoor stadiums for horse and chariot racing) throughout the land. While this earned him the favor of many upper-class Jews, it brought disdain from the more conservative Pharisees and the common people.

The Herodians mentioned in the Gospels (Mark 3:6; 12:13) were Hellenistic Jewish supporters of the Herodian dynasty, who favored the stability and status quo brought by Roman authority.

Herod died in 4 BC (cf. Matt. 2:19), probably from intestinal cancer.

As a final act of vengeance against his contemptuous subjects, he rounded up leading Jews and commanded that at his death they should be executed. His reasoning was that if there was no mourning for his death, at least there would be mourning at his death! (At Herod's death, the order was overruled and the prisoners were released.)

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



WE DO NOT LOSE HEART

We are pressed on every side; unable to find a way out;
Persecuted and cast down;
Every suffering in our natural man is another opportunity
For our inner man to develop and be renewed.

So we do not lose heart though our outer man is decaying;
We do not lose heart for our inner man is being renewed day by
day;

And we do not regard the temporary things which are seen
But the things which are not seen which are eternal.

2

Nourish me, Lord, in my sufferings with a fresh supply;
Renew me day by day with resurrection life.
Every suffering in my natural man is another opportunity
For Your life and resurrection to be released.

Bridge:

We are pressed on every side; (but not constricted)
Unable to find a way out; (still with a way out)
Persecuted (but not abandoned)
And cast down (but not destroyed)

For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us
More and more surpassingly an eternal weight of glory.

Ending:

But the things which are not seen—which are eternal,
Which are eternal,
Which are eternal.



B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

MONDAY: MATTHEW 11

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/40_Matthew_11.htm#Mat11

TUESDAY: MATTHEW 12

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/40_Matthew_12.htm#Mat12

WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 13

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/40_Matthew_13.htm#Mat13

THURSDAY: MATTHEW 14

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/40_Matthew_14.htm#Mat14

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 15

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/40_Matthew_15.htm#Mat15