

## "The Government of the Living Spirit" II Corinthians 3:1-18

If we are going to live under the government of the Living Spirit then we must be living in the realities of the New Covenant. The Spirit Himself will be consistently reminding us of these realities. Such as... not everything that is Biblical is Christian (Stoning people? Blood sacrifices? Tithing?)... genuine, new covenant truth is the antidote for both legalism and license (both disrespectful to the saving life of Christ, both ways to hinder Christ from being Himself in and through us)... new covenant truth alone is able to accurately define and fully interpret our newly created selves in Christ (there is no changed "I", but an exchanged "I"; no repaired "me", but a replaced "me")... that the "Christian life" is just beyond the grasp of every confession but one - "not I, but Christ" (the salvation theology of every Christian and the living-the-Christian-life theology of every Christian).

Mostly, He will be simply pointing us to the full supply and total sufficiency of Jesus Christ in us. In II Corinthians 3, one of Paul's key thoughts is "adequacy" (3:5-6). All our fitness, competence, abilities - our "enoughness" - comes not from ourselves, "but... out of God" (3:5). He alone makes us capable, qualified - in Him we have what it takes. In other words, sufficiency for Christian living is neither self-acquired nor self-sustained. The All-Sufficient One is Who makes us sufficient... He (plus nothing) is enough! He is the Source, the Supply, the Substance of His own kingdom.

A second key thought in this passage is the word "new" (3:6). Because of the Saving Life of Christ, and our receptivity of Him we have an altogether new deal, new arrangement with God. While the "old" arrangement had a ministry of "condemnation", "death", and transience ("fading") (3:7,9), this new deal has a ministry of "righteousness", "life", and lasts ("remains") forever (3:6,9,11). Only this new arrangement - experienced under the government of the Living Spirit - sufficiently supplies, adequately enables, and fully qualifies us for the life pleasing to God... the life of Jesus Christ for and in and through us!

Paul characterizes us as "servants" of this new covenant. Go under the government of the Living Spirit as a servant of all we have freely received, and the radiant, eternal, living glory of Christ in us becomes our hope of glory. Go under the government of any other voice - cultural, demonic, religious - and something dies - confidence fades, joy dissipates, rest disappears. We will be servants, slaves to whomever we "present ourselves to" (Ro 6:16). We in Christ can choose our "master". It is long past time for those of us who confess Christ to freely choose to come under the government of His Living Spirit!

✕

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -  
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*  
13820 NW 172nd Ave, Alachua, FL 32615
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -  
[www.stevepettitmessages.com](http://www.stevepettitmessages.com)
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -  
can be arranged by calling Steve at 352-672-1275
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** -  
email your request to [OICnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OICnewsletter@gmail.com)

### *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



Please inform us of any changes to your address



# Greetings

Revelation 21:5 says, "And He Who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'" The New Year is a marker in our minds for making things new - a new diet, a new budgeting plan, a new exercise routine, a new devotional format, a newly prioritized life. Whether or not we remain faithful and true to these objectives is, perhaps, a different story!

Read on in Revelation 21:5. Jesus says, "...these words are faithful and true." He will, in deed (not just in word), be faithful and true to His promise to make all things new. Maybe our focus, then, should be more on His promise than our plans.

I realize the context in Revelation 21 is the onset of the new heaven and earth, but Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever - He is always making all things new! Are you ready for the new song He wants you to sing this year? Open to receive the new revelation of Himself that will change the way you live? Willing to embrace the gift of new growth no matter the delivery agent? Anticipating the yet unknown newness of your newly created life to be awakened in you?

Then overlook no one, discount nothing, disregard not even the smallest thing - for the One Who is making ALL THINGS new is at work... "so that we may walk in the newness of life." (Ro 6:4)

**\*Don't forget we are dropping the 386... phone number as of January 1, 2020. You will be able to reach Steve at 352-672-1275**

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

6,7 Sebring, FL  
14 Alachua Study  
28 Ocala Study

**FEBRUARY** 21-23 FLORIDA RETREAT (see details below)

**MARCH** 14-17 Anderson, SC (864-227-1789)

**April** 24-26 Hardin, KY (270-437-4172)

## 2020 Florida Retreat



February 21-23  
Gainesville, Florida



"Life Together" (I John)

**\$50 deposit (per person) due by February 1, 2020**

\$325 per Couple (meals, room & retreat fee)  
\$275 - per person, single room (meals, room & retreat fee)  
\$170 - per person, 2 to a room (meals, room & retreat fee)  
\$75 per person (meals & retreat fee - no room)

## Hands & Prayer



Christ's sufficiency in us



Christ's promise to make all things new



2020 Florida Retreat



Living faithfully under the government of the Living Spirit

NONPROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ALACHUA, FL  
PERMIT NO. 11

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

One In Christ, Inc.  
13820 NW 172nd Avenue  
Alachua, FL 32615