

He Could Have Become a New Creature
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday a man attended the morning worship service of the West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, TX.
 - a. On that occasion he could have received the blessing mentioned in this verse -- "he could have become a new creature."
 - b. According to Matthew 11:28-30, this is what the Lord wanted him to do.
 - c. We learn from Galatians 6:15 that becoming a new creature is a matter of utmost importance.
 - d. By becoming a new creature he could have caused many to rejoice.
 - 1) He could have rejoiced himself (Acts 8:39).
 - 2) He could have brought joy to the congregation.
 - 3) He could have caused joy to be experienced in heaven (Luke 15:10).
 - e. Rather than become a new creature and cause many to rejoice, he murdered 2 members of the congregation and brought sorrow to many.
 - f. He will have no more opportunities to become a new creature because he was killed.
2. On this first Lord's Day of a New Year, let us be reminded of several principles that relate to becoming a new creature.
3. Let us keep in mind that the Bible teaches us to learn from the mistakes of other people (1 Corinthians 10:1-13).

Discussion:

- I. HE COULD HAVE BECOME A NEW CREATURE BY BEING BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST
 - A. To become new creatures we must be "in Christ" [*"If any man be in Christ he is a new creature"*].
 - B. The Bible explains how we get into Christ [we are "*baptized into Christ*"] in Galatians 3:26-27.
 - C. Notice how the people in Corinth became new creatures (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Acts 18:8).
 - D. By being baptized into Christ we become new creatures in that "*old things are passed away*" and "*all things are become new.*"
- II. AS A NEW CREATURE HE COULD HAVE RECEIVED SPECIAL NEW BLESSINGS
 - A. A new creature has the privilege of wearing a new name [Christian] (Acts 11:26).
 - B. A new creature gains access to "*all spiritual blessings*" (Ephesians 1:3).
 - C. A new creature looks forward to a new dwelling place (2 Peter 3:13).
- III. AS A NEW CREATURE HE COULD BEGUN FULFILLING NEW RESPONSIBILITIES
 - A. A new creature is to walk "*in newness of life*" (Romans 6:3-4, 11-13, 17-18).
 - B. A new creature is to be continually renewed (Ephesians 4:22-24).
 1. Things that are corrupt must be put away (Ephesians 4:25-31).
 2. Things that please God must be put on (Ephesians 4:32).
 - C. A new creature is to grow spiritually (1 Peter 2:1-3).
 - D. A new creature is to obey the Lord's new commandment (John 13:34-35).

Conclusion:

1. Last Sunday a man had an opportunity to become a new creature, but he rejected his opportunity.
2. Let us avoid his mistake.