

# Roots

**January, 11 2015**

***A New Year, A New You***

*Ephesians 2: 10 – For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, for good works.*

Blessed New Year to all of you. I’m sure you all know very well that a New Year means New Year’s resolutions. Perhaps some of you made them. I don’t often make them myself. I don’t think that they are very necessary, nor do I think that a seemingly spur-of-the-moment decision should dictate some new behavior, even if it is a healthy new lifestyle. Nevertheless, many people have made new goals for this new year. Many of those goals will be to lose weight, eat better, try new things or something of the like. If you made any of these goals, I wish you God’s blessings in your pursuit of them, and I hope that you make it.

Now, I would like to emphasize something to you that New Year celebrations often bring to my mind. Whether you know it or not, you are a new person. In fact, you don’t have to wait for a New Year to be a new person. Every day you are new, because of what Christ has done for you.

In Ephesians, Paul reminds us of something that I want you to keep in mind alongside all of the New Year goals. You are God’s workmanship in Christ, made for good works that the heavenly Father has set aside specifically for you.

From this I want you to hear two things. First, I want you to hear that God created you newly in Christ Jesus. Because of your baptism,

you have been united with Christ in death and more importantly in life.

That means you are a newborn

Christian every day. As you rise, Christ clothes you with his righteousness, covers your old sins and makes you a new person to serve in his kingdom.

That thought brings me to my second point. As Christ has covered you and made you new, God has prepared tasks for you to complete. Paul calls them good works. God loves you enough to prepare the way for you to work for him. So, you are a new person with your work all laid out and ready for you. God created you on his divine workbench and set up your own bench to work with.

That is a pretty awesome picture. It is pretty awesome and brand new each day. Daily you yourselves rise new people, and God sets new tasks up for you to do good in his kingdom. You are his new workmanship, rising to do his work in his workshop. This year, I want you to resolve yourselves to remember that.

God makes you new each day by the work of his Son. And, he uses your work to extend his workshop, his kingdom. So, every day this year remember it’s a new year and you’re a new you with new and wonderfully blessed things to do.

*Lord, Make us new every day. Give us the faith and confidence to do your new good works. Amen.*

*Pastor Carl Jh*

