

May the LORD give you a new beginning of His new life in 2009.

GOODNEWS LETTER

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WHAT'S NEW???

New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, etc. That old kind-of-joke answer to "What's New" usually made you sigh. It wasn't a rude answer, only we did not asked the question to get a silly response.

But, in a spiritual sense, we'll smile (not sigh) when we get the answer to a "What's new?" question. When talking about the coming age, a whole new meaning comes to mind.

Let's try it. Question: "What's new?"

Response: **New birth**, new life, new vocation, new thoughts, new day, New Jerusalem, and the never ending new world.

Things begin to snowball after that. "What's New" takes on more and more changes. Soon, the question of "What's new" becomes "News" and, in the spiritual thought, "What's new" turns into the "Good News" of the gospel.

It doesn't stop there. Soon, some bright preacher puts out a weekly newsletter entitled: "**GoodNews Letter.**"

Yes, meanings have changed over time; which moves swiftly, doesn't it? Just notice the issue number of this **GoodNews Letter. It's 249!** That means it's been **4.78 years** since launching the first "**GoodNews Letter.**"

Yes, time has flown, but it's been a real spiritual school of education for me. Thank God. And as time passes, changes and adaptations to words and phrases will, no doubt, continue to change. That is, until the resurrection day arrives when they'll be no more changing of meanings. We'll all be thinking spiritually, totally and completely.

Church will be defined as an "**Assembly.**" **Baptism** as "**Immersion.**" And, **Jerusalem** will be where the saints abide. After a thousand years in Jerusalem, we'll move into New Jerusalem. But, there will be no double meanings then. Today there aren't really any changes in the Bible either.

Even those who are lost; such as the "rich man" of Luke 16, will see no change. On that day - at the Second Coming, physical life will mean nothing; not to the "rich man," you or anyone else.

Please notice how his thoughts turned quickly to the spiritual side of life at his ultimate end and finality of his physical life. **First**, he was only concerned with himself and asked Father Abraham to "**send Lazarus, that he may dip his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame,**" Luke 16:24.

But, learning that all hope was lost after leaving the physical life, the "rich man" **pleaded** on behalf of his five (5) brothers; asking Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead. "**For I have**

brethren: that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment" (suffering), Luke 16:28.

"**What's new**" took on a whole new meaning for the rich man after he died. He was told by Abraham, "If they (his brothers) do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead," Luke 16:31.

And how about you and me? Do we listen to God's word? Further, one has risen from the dead. His name is Jesus. Are we listening to him and being persuaded? God help us to hear the words of life that Jesus preached and offered; not only from condemnation but, also to be saved from this world by walking in the Spirit.

Let's try the "**What's New**" question, again. Question: "**What's new?**"

Answer: **Nothing**. "So, there is nothing new under the sun," Ecclesiastes 1:9.

"Is there anything of which one might say, 'See this, it is new'?"

Already it has existed for ages which is before us," v10.

"**What's New?**" Answer: **New Song**. "... He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God," Psalms 40:3.

"**What's New?**" Answer: **New heavens and earth**. God said, "For behold, I create new heavens and a **new** earth; And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind," Isaiah 65:17.

"**What's New?**" Answer: **Spiritual growth**. "Like newborn babes, long for the pure (unadulterated) milk of the word, that you may grow in respect to salvation," 1st Peter 2:2.

"**What's New?**" Answer: **Holy Spirit adequacy**. "...we are not adequate in ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a New Covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life," 2 Corinthians 3:5,6.

"**What's New?**" Answer: **New Creation**. "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things passed away; behold, new things have come,"

2nd Corinthians 5:17.

"**What's New?**" Answer: **Newness of life**: "Therefore we have buried with Him through baptism unto death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life," Romans 6:4.

"**What's New?**" Answer: **Blood of the New Covenant**. "And for this reason He is the mediator of a New Covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance," Hebrews 9:15.

What's New for you and me? The Bible has been written for our sakes that we might prepare ourselves for that coming day. Let's study to show ourselves approved (2Tim 2:15). When we walk by faith in God's word, each step brings newness of His life. Each step we take presents a newer portion of life.