

DRESSED IN THE NEWNESS OF CHRIST

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1

REFLECTION

Chinese New Year celebrates the festival of Spring. We commonly spring clean our homes and put on new clothes, symbolizing the removal of the old and heralding the new. We visit our relatives and friends to renew relationships and forge new relations in our reunion gatherings. Celebrating the Spring Festival at the end of winter and beginning of spring itself is a new beginning.

Just as we enter into a symbolic new beginning every Chinese New Year, all believers who are in Christ enter into a new standing and are conferred a new identity when we confess Christ as our Lord and Saviour. We were once condemned to death for our sins, but now we enter into the newness of a life transformed from a sinner into a saint. In this new standing of no condemnation in Christ, we only need to walk according to His ways and not our own to keep our new position of peace and confidence. In union with Christ, God the Father did what only He could do, which is to fulfil the requirements of the law and made us free from the consequences of sin and death.

Just as we put on new clothes every Chinese New Year as sons and daughters of God through faith, we "put on Christ" (Gal 3:26-27) and receive the Spirit of God to put away things of the flesh in favour of the pursuit of holiness. We put on the character of Christ in our new standing and reflect the new life we have in Him, our wellspring of life eternal.

Take a moment then how you can put on Christ in the new self, at home, at work, in Church, etc. What would this new self in Christ look like? What will God have you to do or be? What old clothes will you need to discard? Does the new self in Christ "look good" or benefit you? More importantly, will it please God?

PRAYER

Father God, we thank You for the new beginning we have in Christ as we put our faith in Him and begin to pursue His likeness in the choices we make in life. Thank You for the new standing we have in Christ because He paid for our sins and has gifted us eternal life having destroyed the power of sin and death. Amen

SUPPLICATION

- Give thanks to God for how He has set us free from the curse of sin and death. Pray for believers to know the position and power they have in Christ Jesus to overcome temptation to sin and to break free from sinful addictions. Pray for those caught up in sin to submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit to confess and repent from sin.
- Give thanks to God for spiritual friendships, accountability partners, small groups, covenant groups and spiritual counselors that help believers to grow in God and mature in Him by walking in the newness of the Spirit of God. Pray for all believers to hate sin and root out sin in their lives.
- Pray for believers and churches that have backslidden. Pray for churches and believers that have become lukewarm. Pray that they may become passionate for God by turning away from all other fleshly passions. Pray that God would fan into flames their passion to remain faithful in Christ and to serve Him wholeheartedly.
- Pray for each believer in Christ, who reflect on the newness of the Spring Festival, to seek after the new life in Him. Pray for every believer to take ownership of their new standing in Christ as sons and daughters of God who reflect His holiness in daily living that others may see the reality of God in them.

*"Hearken, my believing reader.
What is the cause of your weakness?
Is it not because the fountain of life is little used?
Is it not because you are resting on old experiences,
and not daily gathering new manna
- daily drawing new strength from Christ?"*
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***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
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