

## New Things Matthew 13:52

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** With a new year upon us, it is a good time to call our attention to some new things.
2. The word “new” occurs 173 times in 153 verses in my Bible (NKJV).
3. **\*\*** Jesus said, “*Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.*” (Matt. 13:52).
4. **3** Let’s look at some “new” things to help us get our spiritual lives off to a good start this year.

### II. DISCUSSION:

#### I. **4** New name:

- A. Did you know when you obeyed the gospel God renamed you?
  - (1) Isaiah prophesied, “*And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name*” (Isa. 62:2).
  - (2) Isaiah also prophesied this “new name” would be “*an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.*” (Isa. 56:5; also see Isa. 65:15).
- B. The name would be new as it was previously unheard of; it had not been used before.
  - (1) It would be a divinely given name as it would proceed from “*the mouth of the LORD.*”
  - (2) And it is connected with the Gentiles seeing God’s righteousness.
  - (3) This occurred in Acts 10 & 11 in the conversion of the Gentiles.
  - (4) Thus, it is written in Acts 11:26, “*...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*”
- C. **\*\*** There is more than meets the eye to this “new name.”
  - (1) Many surnames (i.e., last names) are derived from one’s occupation.
  - (2) For example:
    - (a) Smith: performed the services of a blacksmith.
    - (b) Baker: made baked goods.
    - (c) Cooper: a maker of barrels.
    - (d) Carpenter: performed the services of a carpenter.
  - (3) The “new name,” (Christian), has similar characteristics.
    - (a) Albert Barnes comments that the name Christian is to be classified with all names that mean “to transact...business; to be employed in accomplishing...” something.
    - (b) Hence, to be a Christian one is “transacting business” in the name of Christ.
    - (c) Or, to be a Christian means one is “employed in accomplishing” the will of Christ.
- D. **\*\*** This is why Peter said what he did in 1 Peter 4:14-16:

*“If ye are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed (are ye); because the (Spirit) of glory and the Spirit of God resteth upon you. 15 For let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil-doer, or as a meddler in other men's matters: 16 but if (a man suffer) as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name.” (ASV)*
- E. To wear the name Christian is both a great honor and a great responsibility:

- (1) It is a great honor because it identifies our “business.” We are in the “business” of serving the Lord Jesus Christ! (Col. 3:17; Rom. 8:29)
  - (2) It is a great responsibility because we are to “glorify God in this name” (Matt. 5:14-16).
- F. In 2019 let us be determined to be worthy of the name Christian in all we think, say, and do!

## 2. **5** New covenant:

- A. The Lord announced through Jeremiah, “Behold, the days come...that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah...” (Jer. 31:31-34).
  - (1) This “new covenant” language is quoted in Hebrews 8:7-13.
  - (2) This shows there are “two covenants” as Galatians 4:24 says, and not just one continuous covenant: “For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second” (Heb. 8:7).
- B. Sometimes the “new covenant” (Heb. 8:6; 10:16, 29; 12:24; 13:20) is called a:
  - (1) “law” (Jn. 1:17; Gal. 6:2),
  - (2) “testament” (Matt. 26:28; 2 Cor. 3:6, 14),
  - (3) “will” (Heb. 10:9-10).
- C. We are so blessed to live in the Christian dispensation, under the “new covenant” because the “new covenant” is so much better or superior to the old. The “new covenant” has a “better”:
  - (1) “hope” (**Heb. 7:19**: “for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”),
  - (2) “mediator” (**Heb. 8:6**: “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.” (1 Pet. 2:5, 9),
  - (3) “promises” (Heb. 8:6),
  - (4) “sacrifices” (**Heb. 9:23**: “Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.”; 10:1-10),
  - (5) “blood” (**Heb. 12:24**: “...Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”).
- D. But, so many practice a “cafeteria-style religion.” They try to bring some things from the old covenant into the new (e.g., instrumental music, burning of incense, sabbath keeping).
  - (1) Why would one want to revert to the old covenant?
    - (a) “In that He says, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete.” (Heb. 8:13; ~600 years before Christ!).
    - (b) When Jesus came and did God’s will, “He takes away the first that He may establish the second. *IO* By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb. 10:9-10)
    - (c) The old covenant was “abolished” (Eph. 2:15), it was “nailed it to the cross” (Col. 2:14)
  - (2) If we try to bind things from the old covenant (religiously) we “are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace.” (Gal. 5:4; ASV)
- E. In the new year, and forevermore, let us be determined to follow the new covenant and only use the old covenant for God’s intended purpose (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11).

### 3. **6** New commandment:

- A. The Lord taught, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."* (Jn. 13:34).
  - (1) The great love of Jesus is shown in His death: *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (Jn. 15:13).
  - (2) Ephesians 5:25 says, *"...even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."*
- B. This *"love one another"* command is upheld all throughout the New Testament (Jn. 15:12, 17; Rom. 13:8; 1 Thess. 4:9; 1 Jn. 3:11, 23; 4:11-12; 2 Jn. 5).
- C. The Lord also said, *"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* (Jn. 13:35).
  - (1) This *"love one another"* thing is a distinguishing mark of Christians (**1 Pet. 1:22**: *"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,"*).
  - (2) John puts it this way: **1 Jn. 4:7-8**: *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."*
- D. Are we wearing this badge of discipleship?

### 4. **7** New creation:

- A. Paul wrote the Corinthians, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* (2 Cor. 5:17).
  - (1) The Lord has made it possible for us to be a *"new creature."* (KJV)
  - (2) Did you notice where one is a *"new creature"*? *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation"*!
- B. Now a question comes to mind: How does one get *"in Christ"*?
  - (1) The Bible answers: *"...baptized into Jesus Christ"* (Rom. 6:3) and if we've been *"...baptized into Christ..."* we *"have put on Christ"* (Gal. 3:27; *"have put on the character of Christ, like putting on new clothes."*; NLT).
  - (2) Are you *"in Christ"*? Are you *"clothed...with Christ"*? (NASV).
  - (3) Not unless you've been baptized *"into Christ"*!
- C. Unless we become a *"new creature"* *"in Christ"* we will be eternally lost! 2 Thess. 1:7-9
  - (1) I doubt anyone in this audience desires to be lost in hell for ever and ever (Mk. 9:43-48).
  - (2) Don't leave this assembly without becoming a *"new creature"* *"in Christ"*!

### 5. **8** New man:

- A. Perhaps you may not like the man (or woman) you are.
  - (1) I have news for you: you can be a new man!
  - (2) The book of the Lord describes two men: *"the old man"* and *"the new man"* (Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:1-13).
  - (3) Paul said, *"that you put off...the old man...and...you put on the new man..."* (Eph. 4:22, 24).
    - (a) The old man is *"...corrupt according to the deceitful lusts"* (v. 22).
    - (b) The new man *"...is created in righteousness and true holiness"* (v. 24).

B. Which are you?

- (1) Be brutally honest with yourself! Which describes you? v. 22 or v. 24?
- (2) When you were baptized did you just get wet? Or, did you arise “to walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).
- (3) To put on the new man is to: “...put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.” (Col. 3:12-14).

6. **9** New heavens and a new earth:

A. Most people, like the “rich fool” (Lk. 12:13-21), behave as if this life is all there is.

- (1) Paul said, “If the dead do not rise, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!’” (1 Cor. 15:32)
- (2) Our hope is not here on earth but is “laid up...in heaven” (Col. 1:5); because “our citizenship is in heaven” (Phil. 3:21).
- (3) Like the songs go:
  - (a) “Here we are but straying pilgrims...”
  - (b) Because, “This world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through, my treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue.”

B. We must never forget (every single day!) this earth is temporary:

**2 Pet. 3:10-12:** “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”

C. Note the words “pass away,” “melt,” “burned up,” and “dissolved” in this text.

- (1) Peter continues, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (2 Pet. 3:13).
- (2) In the final book of the Bible John said, “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.” (Rev. 21:1).

D. As Christians we can look forward to a new eternal dwelling place where we will exist with immortal, incorruptible bodies (1 Cor. 15:53).

- (1) It is a place where “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.” (Rev. 22:3-5)
- (2) It is a place where “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’” (Rev. 21:3-4)
- (3) John envisioned the new Jerusalem: “Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’” (Rev. 21:5).

E. Does a “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” appeal to you?

(1) It is “...reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Pet. 1:4-5)

(2) But we can only get there by “giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue... knowledge... self-control...perseverance...godliness...brotherly kindness...love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Pet. 1:5-11)

F. \*\* Whether one realizes it or not, each day, we are “laying up treasure.” Where are you laying up your treasure?

### III. CONCLUSION: 10

1. As Christians we live with a “blessed hope”:

**Titus 2:11-13:** “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”

2. Our “blessed hope” consists of glorious promises:

**1 Pet. 1:3-5:** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

3. \*\* But the realization of our “blessed hope” requires:

A. Perseverance:

**Rom. 8:24-25:** “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”

B. Patience: We just have to hang in for just “a little while” longer:

**Heb. 10:35-39:** “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 ‘For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.’ 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

4. Invitation

5. \*\* I hope to someday sing the “new song”! How about you? Rev. 14:1-5

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