



Topic 3: All Things New

Understanding Who You Are in Christ

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

—2 Corinthians 5:17

Who doesn't love new stuff? The smell of a new car. The joy of making a new friend. The fun of discovering a great new restaurant or ideal vacation spot.

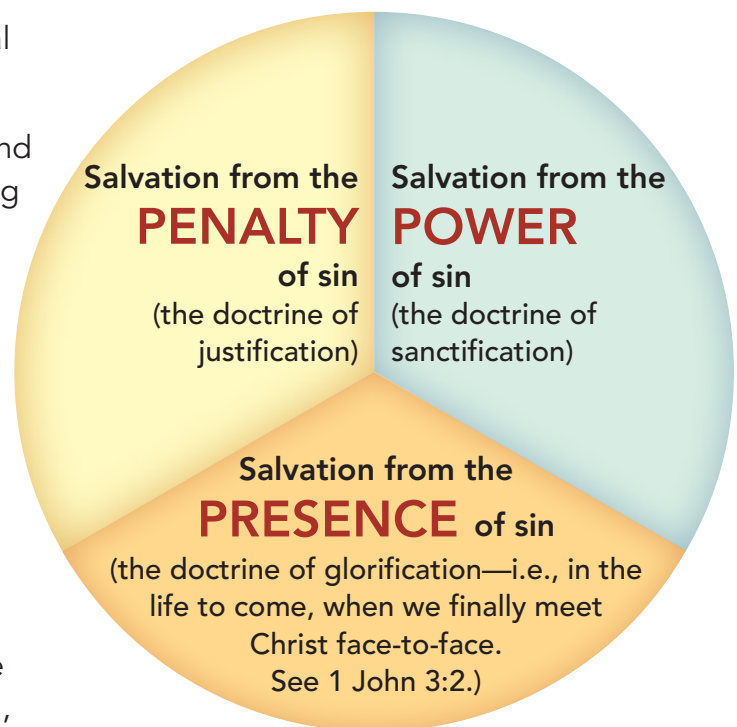
New means different. It hints of surprise and tantalizes us with the possibility of breaking out of old ruts. New almost always means an upgrade—thus the overused marketing phrase “new and improved.”

The promise of the gospel is that faith in Christ brings new (and improved!) life—right here and right now.

- ▶ A lot of people see religious faith as being mostly about one's past: “For much of my life I lived in terrible ways. But then I heard the good news of Jesus. I trusted him, and he forgave all my sins.”
- ▶ Or they see salvation as being primarily a *future* thing: “Because of Jesus, when I die, I'm going to heaven!”

While both of these things are true, there's also the fact that salvation has incredible implications for everyday life in the present!

Theologians like to say that salvation has three aspects:



It is this second aspect we primarily want to concentrate on in this study. We want to look at the phenomenal changes brought on by “so great a salvation” (Hebrews 2:3). The gospel doesn't only address our former lives, and it doesn't merely provide eternal life when we die. The gospel is also about new life *now*.

