

## ALL THINGS NEW

Lincoln Park Baptist Church, West Newton, Massachusetts  
December 27, 1964

### Scripture:

- A. *“Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea,  
A path through the mighty waters.  
Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old.  
Behold, I am doing a new thing. Even now it is springing to light.  
Do you not perceive it? A way will I make in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert!”* Is. 43:16, 18-19

God does a new thing. Former things – older things – contrasted with *“I am doing a new thing.”*

- B. *“Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,  
not like the covenant which I made with their fathers  
on the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt;  
which covenant they broke, so that I had to reject them.  
But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel  
after these days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them  
and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God... and they shall be my people...  
For I will forgive their guilt and I will remember their sin no more.”* Jer.31:31-34

A new covenant is contrasted against an old covenant. My law will be written in their hearts. I will forgive their sins.

- C. *“Thus saith the Lord God: I ignore the troubles of the past. I shut my eyes to them.  
For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.  
The past will be forgotten and never come to mind.  
Men shall rejoice forever in what I now create.”* Is. 65:16,17

New heavens and a new earth contrasted with an old heaven and an old earth. Past to be forgotten: God creates.

St. Paul: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. The old has passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* 2Cor. 5:17.

The new creature vs. the old creature.  
The new things vs. the old things.

Creation  
of God.

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Jesus: *“No one puts a piece of new cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; if*

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*it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into new wineskins, and so both are preserved.” Mark 2:21-22.*

The new cloth vs. the old garment.

New wine in old wineskins. New wine in new wineskins.

The new vs. the old.

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. ... And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down ... and I heard a great voice from the throne saying: Behold the dwelling of God is with men ... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, for the former things have passed away. ... Behold, I make all things new.”*

New heaven and a new earth – new Jerusalem – I make all things new.

Let us think today about the old and the new. The old is rejected:

- the old covenant
- the former things are forgotten
- the old earth and the old heaven
- the past is forgotten
- the old garment
- the old wineskins

The new is affirmed. These writers prefer the new to the old. God is the God of the new.

## I. The New and the Old

- A. The new is not synonymous with progress.
- B. Old means that which lasts through all times, that which is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In this sense, God is called “Ancient of days” or “the Redeemer of old”. Old means here everlasting.
- C. Old is that which passes away and shall not be remembered.
  - (1) Growth means fulfillment and at the same time sacrifice – to grow means to choose and to reject.
    - (a) Cells that specialize in hearing cannot specialize in seeing.
    - (b) He who wants to be a scientist has to sacrifice possibilities in the realm of the poetic or political. One decision excludes other possibilities. One possibility is affirmed, the other denied.
  - (2) This is true of the historical sphere. With decision comes destruction and death.
    - (a) We have affirmed freedom and excluded in that decision social and spiritual security.
    - (b) We have affirmed the means and have forgotten about ends. Our tools have

become our masters.

- (c) We have affirmed reason and excluded the soul.
- (d) We have affirmed the nation and have forgotten about the unity of all men.
- (e) We have affirmed the secular world but have excluded the feeling for the inexhaustible mystery of life, the grip of an ultimate meaning of existence, the invincible power of an unconditional devotion.

II. The one who creates the new is God. The new can only come out of the death of the old.

- A. Coming of the new is surprising. The new appears when and where it chooses. Often it chooses the most extraordinary instruments: ex. John the Baptist and Jesus  
The Pilgrims in Massachusetts  
The American Revolution

Let us be ready to confront the new when it appears today:

- (a) Study groups – Bible, theology
- (b) Minister-workers
- (c) Worship and communion in homes

B. The new breaks the power of the old. It means forgiveness.

(1) Forgiveness means a throwing out of the old, as remembered and real at the same time, by the strength of the new – for the soul, for me.

(3) Forgiveness in history

“The really new is able to break the power of old conflicts between man and man, between group and group, in memory and reality. It is able to break the old curses, the results of former guilt, inherited by one generation from another, the guilt between nations, between races, between classes, old and new continents, these curses by which the guilt of one group, in reality and memory, permanently produces guilt in another group. What power of the new will be great and saving enough to break the curses which have laid waste half our world?”

C. “Behold! I am doing a new thing.” “I” points to God, to the eternal.

The new appears when we least expect it and has power to overthrow the past. It is the saving power of the eternal within.

### Conclusion:

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. Christ as symbol is the representation of all that is really new in man and history.

Christ deprived himself of every claim to greatness; he was the man who lived for others. He is the incarnation of love. And love never ends. “Love is the power of the new in every man and in all history.”

What about its specific application in the coming year?

- civil rights
- problem of peace
- problem of feeding people

We could also come to life with the attitude of the preacher in the O.T. (Ec.1:2, 9-10)

*"Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher. Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.  
What has been is what shall be; what has gone on is what shall go on;  
And there is nothing new under the sun.  
Is there a thing of which it is said: Lo, this is new?  
It was already in existence in the ages which were before us."*

Or we can expect a new thing from God:

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing. Even now it is springing to light."*

Let us be open to the action of God in our lives, in society, in the present and in the future.

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