

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

June 9, 2014

## We are not the same (Pt. 2)

**ROMANS 6:4 NKJV – (4)** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

To understand the new creation, first we must grasp that it is in fact a creation, something created by God. **John 1:13** tells us this new birth was brought about by the will of God. We did not inherit the new nature, nor did we decide to re-create ourselves anew, nor did God simply clean up our old nature; He created something entirely fresh and unique. The new creation is completely new, brought about from nothing, just as the whole universe was created by God *ex nihilo*, from nothing. Only the Creator could accomplish such a feat.

Secondly, "old things have passed away." The "old" refers to everything that is part of our old nature—natural pride, love of sin, reliance on works, and our former opinions, habits and passions. Most significantly, what we loved has passed away, especially the supreme love of self and, with it, self-righteousness, self-promotion, and self-justification. The new creature looks outwardly toward Christ instead of inwardly toward self. The old things died, nailed to the cross with our sin nature.

What about the Christian who continues to sin? There is a difference between continuing to sin and continuing to live in sin. No one reaches sinless perfection in this life, but the redeemed Christian is being sanctified (made holy) day by day, sinning less and hating it more each time he fails. Yes, we still sin, but unwillingly and less and less frequently as we mature. Our new self hates the sin that still has a hold on us. The difference is that the new creation is no longer a *slave* to sin, as we formerly were. We are now freed from sin and it no longer has power over us (**Romans 6:6-7**). Now we are empowered by and for righteousness. Now we have the choice to "let sin reign" or to count ourselves "dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (**Romans 6:11-12**). Best of all, now we have the power to choose the latter. The new creation is a wondrous thing, formed in the mind of God and created by His power and for His glory.

**SCRIPTURE READING** – 2 CORINTHIANS 1:22

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK** - With the Holy Spirit in our lives, it is truly possible to live an abundant life.