

NEW CREATURE—BAD HABITS

By Keith Greer

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are new."{2 Corinthians 5:17}

This scripture is often quoted in offering the invitation to the alien sinner. Yet, for those of us who have already obeyed the gospel, do we ever think about what this passage means to us? Far too many never seem to give it any consideration after baptism. How do I know?

Throughout the New Testament, God has taught that one who comes to Christ must change from the old manner of life. Jesus told His disciples, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." {Matthew 6:33} We also read about the Christians in Macedonia, " ... first gave themselves to the Lord", "{2 Corinthians 8:5} While new converts change at first, how long does it last? What encouragement do they receive from those of us who are mature Christians?

When a young man or woman obeys the gospel, they are full of questions, zeal, and determination. Whenever the doors are open, they are present. If they are asked to contribute something to the work, they eagerly accept. They often volunteer to help in any way they can. It is quite uplifting to behold. Then after a few months, they begin to notice some things ...

The church has problems getting enough teachers for the Bible classes. No one volunteers. They see some people once a week, and then only for morning worship. In the adult Bible classes, they notice that many have not prepared their lessons and there is a lack of participation in the study. Whenever there is a work day, the same people always come. Some never speak to them after they have been coming faithfully for six months! Our new converts become discouraged and begin to follow the same example and blend in with the rest. Could it be those things of the past have raised their ugly head again in our lives? What are your habits? ***