

## A NEW START IN LIFE

### Int.

1. Aim: To move people to appreciate and accept the new life that they can have through Jesus Christ.
2. II Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." New Creation in NKJV
3. Richard Honeck, after 64 years in Minard State prison in Illinois, was released in December 1963. He was 87 years old and had been imprisoned since 1899. HE GOT A NEW START IN LIFE.
4. A man named Ponce de Leon searched for the fountain of youth that he might begin anew
5. But Jesus is the only one who has the water of life that lets men have a new life here and eternal life in the world to come. John 4:10-15
  - a. Jn. 4:14 "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."
  - b. Jn. 6:35 - bread of life, never hunger
6. The Bible reveals how to begin a new life
  - a. New birth - Jn. 3:5ff - must be born again - born of water and the Spirit
  - b. Regeneration - Tit. 3:5 - "...by the washing of regeneration,..."
  - c. New creature - II Cor. 5:17 - in Christ = new creature - all is new
  - d. New man - Col. 3:9,10 - put off the old and put on the new
7. Conversion is beginning life anew
  - a. Of course man is physically the same - Eph. 2:1
  - b. But spiritually he is getting a new start - II Cor. 4:16

## Discussion

### I. SOME WHO DID NOT GET A SECOND CHANCE

- A. Esau - Heb. 12:16-17 "Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."
- B. Children of Israel - Number 14:26-30 Number 14:39-45
  - 1. At Kadesh-Barnea - refused to enter Canaan
  - 2. But when God told them they would be punished by wandering 40 years they then decided they would enter into the land of Canaan
  - 3. But it was too late - they did not get a second chance
- C. Sometimes we do not get a second chance to start over

### II. SOME WHO DID GET A SECOND CHANCE

- A. Adulterous woman = Jn. 8:1-11
- B. The Prodigal son - Lk. 15:11-32
- C. Peter after denying the Lord repented and preached the gospel in a powerful way !
- D. Saul the persecutor became Paul the Preacher - as recorded in Acts
- E. In Acts 16 we study about a Jailer who was about to commit suicide but he got a second chance !
- F. The people who murdered Jesus [Acts 2] got a second chance. They heard the first gospel sermon that was preached and asked what to do. Peter told them [Acts 2:38] Jesus had prayed for them - Lk. 23:34 "...Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."

G. You and I have a second chance

1. We have the opportunity to obey the gospel
2. Rom. 6:4 "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." "May live a new life " TCNT

### III. WHY IS THE NEW LIFE POSSIBLE ?

A. Jesus died for our sins

1. He came into the world to take away our sins
  - a. John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
  - b. Matt. 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
  - c. Lk. 19:10
2. He died for us 1 Cor. 15:3 "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;"
3. Heb. 2:9 - he tasted death for every man

B. Jesus was fully aware of the fact that he would have to die

1. Matt. 16:21 - "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."
2. He set his face toward Jerusalem - Lk. 9:51 "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,"

3. The crowds said: "He saved others; himself he cannot save!" [Mk. 15:31]
  - a. This was true !
  - b. If he had saved himself, he could not have saved others!

C. There were four spiritual nails that held Jesus to that cross:

1. Obedience to God - Heb. 5:8-9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"
2. Agreement with God from eternity - Gen. 3:15 Matt. 26:39 "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou [wilt]."
3. Fulfillment of Bible prophecy - Matt. 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." - He came to save - not destroy = great truth
4. Love of sinners - 1 Tim. 1:15 "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

D. Sinners must obey the gospel in order to be saved - Heb.5:8-9

E. Jesus died so we could have a new start in life.

## **IV. JESUS' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SINFUL WOMAN SHOWS TWO THINGS**

### **John 8**

#### **A. He had confidence in human nature**

1. Don't give up on yourself too soon ... Jesus believes in you.
2. Jesus had faith that this sinner could, with his help, become a saint.
3. He believed in a handful of common fishermen so completely that He placed the future of His kingdom in their hands.
4. Jesus didn't blast people with the accusation that they were miserable sinners when they already were aware of it.
5. He inspired them with the truth that they were potential saints !

#### **B. His offer of another chance**

1. Poem - The land of Beginning Again

How I wish that there was some wonderful place  
 Called the Land of Beginning Again,  
 Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches  
 And all our poor selfish grief  
 Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door  
 And never put on again.

2. Jesus offers the gospel of the second chance
3. He is interested not only in what a person has been, but also in what a person can be.
4. Jesus is as interested in a man's future as much or more so than his Past !
5. He didn't say to this woman "It's all right." He said, "It's all wrong! You have sinned. Go out and prove you can do better. Sin no more."

## **V. SOME WHO WOULD NOT ACCEPT A NEW START IN LIFE**

### A. Judas

1. Betrayed the Lord
2. He could have repented
3. But he died -- Mark 14:21 "The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born."

### B. Felix

1. He procrastinated and died a sinner - waited for a convenient season
2. He would not accept the gospel
3. Acts 24:24-27

### C. Agrippa

1. He was almost persuaded to become a Christian
2. But he was still lost
3. Acts 26:24-30

D. Antonio Ditarido died in San Quenton prison in 1963. He was very old and had been offered a parole in 1945, but he refused.

E. Many people refuse to accept a new start in life

## **Conclusion**

1. Jesus Christ is the only true "Fountain of Youth"
  2. You have a second chance to start your life anew
    - a. If you are living in sin you are dead spiritually -
    - b. You can be forgiven and start over with a new life
  3. But there will come a time when you will not have a chance to start over
    - a. You could be so sick that you would not understand what you were doing and could not obey the gospel
    - b. If you wait until death then it is too late
    - c. If you wait until the resurrection then it will be too late
  4. Today is the day of salvation - this is the only day you have - why wait? 2 Cor. 6:2  
"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"
  5. A New Start In Life
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Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
evanscoc@bellsouth.net  
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org