

January 14 | Sunday

New Beginnings (a break from the World Religions series)

Read [2 Corinthians 5:11-21](#)



15 | Mon – A new year...a new start | Read [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) and [Isaiah 43:16-19](#)

For many people, the beginning of a new year sparks resolve and new goals. So here we are 15 days into 2018. How are things going? If you find yourself failing in your new resolutions, the words of this verse remind us that, only in Jesus, can we become a new person. What do you need Jesus to make new? How can you cooperate with what *he* wants to do in you?

16 | Tue – New name | Read [Isaiah 62:2](#) and [Rev. 2:17](#)

Names can define us. Unfortunately we did not get to pick our own. If you know what your name means, does it accurately reflect who you are or who you want to be? Scripture tells us that in heaven God will give each of us a new name. Any thoughts on what name God will give you? What would you like to be called?

17 | Wed – New mercy | Read [Lamentations 3:22-23](#)

Lamentations is not frequently read by most people. It is a group of five songs expressing deep grief over the destruction of Jerusalem. Yet even here, you find expressions of hope. No matter what each day holds, God has promised you new mercies *every* day of your life. Where do you need to receive that mercy and compassion for yourself? And this week, who in your life might need to experience the mercy and compassion of God coming through you?

18 | Thu – New song | Read [Psalm 40:3](#)

Hope and peace are two things necessary to navigate the challenges you will certainly face in 2018. You can find these reoccurring themes in the Psalms of the Old Testament and in the worship music of today. You may have already experienced difficulties or disappointment in this new year. Know that God has a new song for you. Even if you have heard the words before, they will suddenly come alive when you see how they fit right now, today. Listen for this new song in scripture, on the radio, or through a friend. Then, how could you share that new song with someone else?

19 | Fri – New future | Read [Revelation 21:5](#)

Even better than a new year and a fresh start, God is preparing for you a new body, a new name, a new song, a new heaven and new earth. When disappointment happens, as it often does in a broken world, remind yourself about the promise in Revelation. The ultimate new is coming and when it does, it will be yours forever. This truth can be an anchor for your heart. How can you refocus when your hope gets tied to desires for the here and now?

20 | Sat – New perspective about others | Read [2 Corinthians 5:16-17](#)

Once you learn to see a new you, created in Christ Jesus, it is time to look outward. Paul reminds his readers how he once looked at Jesus from his own perspective, finding Him to be a heretic to the true faith. A personal encounter with Jesus not only changed Paul's view of this Person but also changed how he regarded others (and interestingly resulted in a new name). Paul resolved to never again look at anyone from his own human perspective. Every person you meet is or has the potential to become a new creation in Christ. How could this idea change the way you look at those you know and those you have yet to meet?