Old Things are Passed Away

“Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new,”

2 Corinthians 5:17.

This is a blessed truth when understood aright, for any who are the LORD’S and have been taught of Him by His Spirit, and drawn to Him in effectual grace. Note that the apostle does not write that old things are passing away, as if the LORD’S children are reforming, or being reformed slowly but surely. It is written in an absolute, definitive statement, ‘ARE PASSED away.’

If at first thought you think that this means that the old nature is no more, settle it in your mind that such is not the case. If that were the case, there would be no need for exhortations in other Scriptures such as Ephesians 4:22, ‘Put off the old man which IS corrupt…’ Note ‘is corrupt’ and continues to be. The sin nature in us, is what it is…SIN. So long as we are in this flesh, it will continue to be sinful, and only death in the LORD will cause it to die- Romans 7:23.

The right approach to this verse is to consider what is passed away, both concretely and spiritually.

1. **Concretely**- when Christ died on the cross, there was a NEW CREATION. The word creation has to do with the founding, or instituting of something NEW. The verse begins with ‘therefore,’ and the preceding verses are with reference to what the LORD Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross by His death…the absolute redemption, justification, and sanctification of His people! Our Lord Jesus came to establish, earn and impute a righteousness that required first the laying of the foundation in His death, and the fulfillment of every aspect of God the Father’s law and justice. The wages of sin is death, and by His death, the curse of the law, sin, and Satan were done away forever, on behalf of those for whom Christ shed His blood, when He finished the work. The old things of the law, sin, and condemnation are no more for those who are Christ’s. Romans 8:1- ‘There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus…”

2. **Spiritually**- Those taught of the Spirit of Christ, in Christ, and by Christ, now have a new view of themselves and of Him as the Savior, Redeemer, Substitute and Justifier. We have done with carnal views of ourselves and of Him. As new creatures, done are the old sinful notions of God, of Christ, of salvation, of ‘free will,’ of self-righteousness, salvation by works, or justification in whole or in part by anything and at any time other than the finished work of the LORD Jesus. ‘If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit,’ Gal. 5:25. The Spirit’s work is ever to reveal Christ, glorify Him, ALONE- John 16:14, 15.