

January 2019

From the Pastor



## New Life In Christ

It is the start of a new year! Did you stay awake until midnight? Something amazing happens in a second! One year ends, and another begins. In an instant we have a New Year.

That's what happens to you when you become a Christian. There are things that happen in an instant. Here is a list that is not exhaustive, but is impressive! Your life changes at the moment of believing in Jesus as your Savior.

You are **a child of God**. Consider what Jesus said that is recorded in the gospel of John.

**John 16:27** ... *for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (ESV)*

As you love Jesus, your Father, loves you. You have God as your heavenly Father. That is amazing!

You are **part of the family of God**. It logically follows that if God is your Father, then you are part of the family of God. But what does that mean? It means you have all sorts of brothers and sisters in Christ on this earth. In the first chapter of the gospel of John it says this:

**John 1:12** *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (ESV)*

You are **righteous**. Consider what is written in Paul's letter to the Romans.

**Romans 3:21-22** *21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—*

*22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.  
For there is no distinction: (ESV)*

To be righteous means to be virtuous or morally in the right. Another way to say it is that if you are righteous, then you stand before God completely clean of all sin. God now sees you as cleansed of all sin.

You have **heaven as your home**. Heaven is now your residence when the time comes for you to leave this earth. Jesus is getting it ready for you right now! This is what He told the disciples:

*John 14:2-3 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (ESV)*

The moment you become a believer you have a new home.

**God is living in you and is at work in your life.** When you give your life to God, He moves in and starts to work in your life. Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, puts it this way:

*Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (ESV)*

Wow! All of that happens at the moment you become a Christian. Let others know what happened to you, so they can make a decision for Christ in 2019.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.