



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 13, 2021

Spiritual Aeronautics of Attitude and Altitude

By Daniel H. Wilcox

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17

5:6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord --

5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

5:8 Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

5:9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

5:10 For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

5:12 We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart.

5:13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

5:14 For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

5:15 And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once

knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

5:17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

In aeronautics, attitude correlates fundamentally to altitude. Positive attitude gains altitude or increasing height in flight. Conversely, negative attitude diminishes altitude or decreasing height. Change in attitude and altitude critically affect flight, particularly regarding safe negotiation of surrounding terrain and arrival at destination.

Apostle Paul affirms spiritual principles of attitude and altitude in 2 Corinthians, declaring that believers in Christ become a new creature or creation. This essential fundamental change signals a movement of renewal and a different destination. The former attitude of willful transgression ruptures fellowship between the Creator and the created, producing an altitude of eternal torment. However, in Christ, the latter attitude of willing obedience restores Edenic fellowship of Adam and the Almighty, producing an altitude of heavenly bliss. The newness of the creature emerges through a death penalty paid by the Lamb of God and penitent repentance of sinful humanity. A holy attitude engenders a heavenly altitude of fidelity in spiritual aeronautics.

Let us live and cherish a renewed relationship with God as a new creation in Christ and the Kingdom of God.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, share a time/instance when you have trusted a new relationship in Jesus Christ as a guiding principle? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

PRAY: Lord God, keep your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Adaption from [The Book of Common Prayer](#)

ACT:

1. During the Kingdomtide season, discuss with a Church School class or any other church group the meaning of a new relationship in Christ. Journal your experience and reflect on your own spiritual journey. Do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available— See: <http://www.amechealth.org>.

2. See also the activity that accompanies this devotion.

Song:

What a Wonderful Change in My Life
AMEC Hymnal, #403

1. What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought
Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!

Refrain

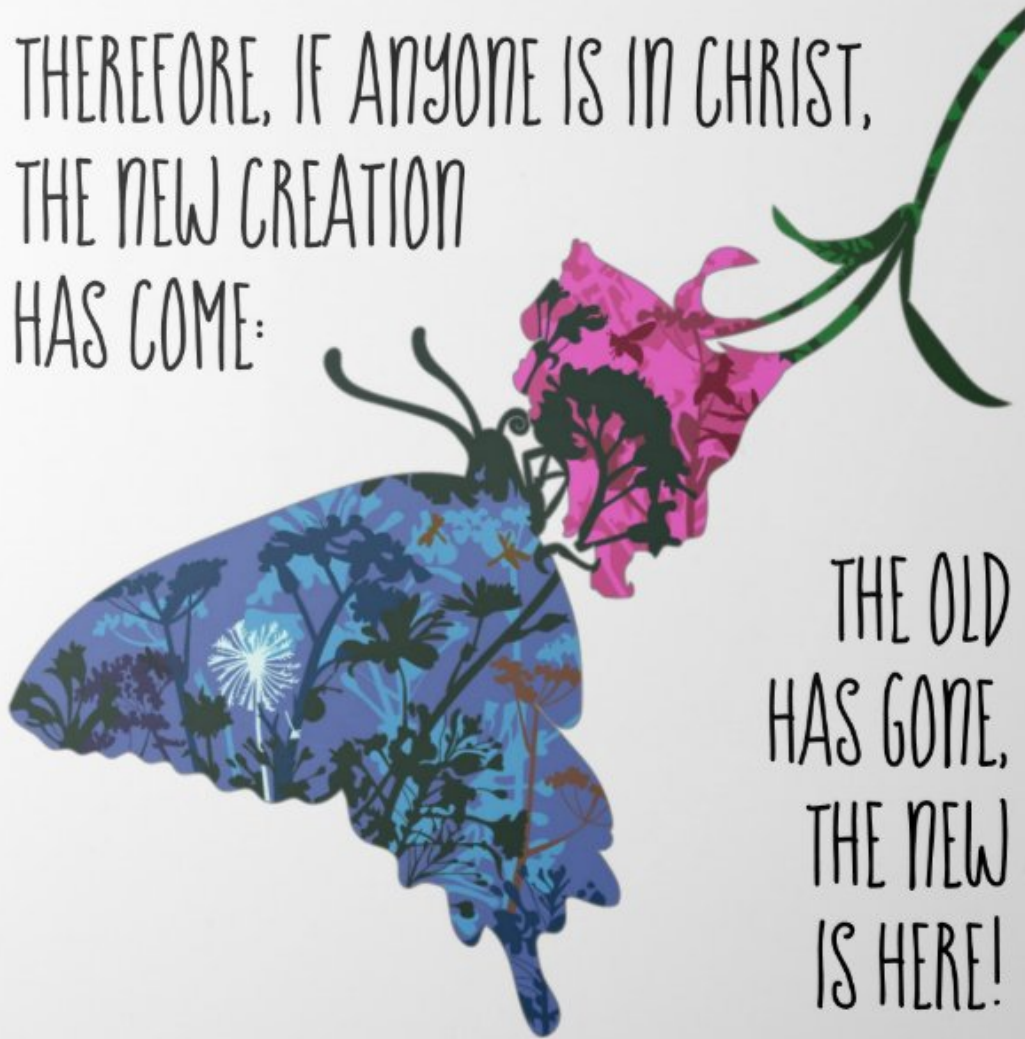
*Since Jesus came into my heart,
Since Jesus came into my heart,
Floods of joy o'er my soul
Like the sea billows roll,
Since Jesus came into my heart.*

2. I have ceased from my wandering and going astray,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
And my sins, which were many, are all washed away,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
3. I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
4. There's a light in the valley of death now for me,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
And the gates of the City beyond I can see,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
5. I shall go there to dwell in that City, I know,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
And I'm happy, so happy, as onward I go,
Since Jesus came into my heart!

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,
THE NEW CREATION
HAS COME:



THE OLD
HAS GONE,
THE NEW
IS HERE!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.