What changes took place when we came to know Christ?

I. We have a new perspective. VERSE 16

Before we met Christ, we evaluated everything from a worldly point of view.
Paul would say that’s how I was too.

“We have a new perspective.”

“When anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.”
Philippians 3:4b-6

We even viewed Christ from a worldly point of view.
There was a time in Paul’s life when he thought Jesus Christ was another misguided messianic pretender.

Then Paul met Christ on the road to Damascus and everything changed.
• Jesus is Lord and God.
• Gentiles in Christ are my brothers.
• What matters most in life is whether or not someone is in Christ.
“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Philippians 3:7-8

How do we see the world?
Is our greatest treasure knowing Christ?
Do we see people through his eyes?

II. We are a new creation in Christ.
VERSE 17-19

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

At our conversion, our eyes were opened and we placed our faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. Old thoughts, habits speech and attitudes began to change.

At our conversion, something decisive happened. We became a child of God.

- The old has gone – aorist tense – at a point in time.
- The new has come – perfect tense – past action with present continuing results.

There are three important theological terms that we should know.

- **Justification** is an instantaneous legal act of God where he declares us to be righteous in his sight because of Christ’s death for us.
- **Sanctification** is the progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

- **Glorification** is the final step in redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own.

From Bible Doctrine by Wayne Grudem
All this is from God. Verse 21 explains it so simply and profoundly.

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

God placed our sins on Jesus as our substitute and he made his Son the object of his wrath and judgment for our sakes.

God did it so that in Christ, we might become the righteousness of God. He did it all.

This is the gospel.

III. We have a new responsibility.

VERSES 5:20-6:2

We are Christ’s ambassadors! He has committed to us the message of reconciliation – the gospel.

An ambassador is an authoritative messenger.

- He speaks on behalf of and in place of his sovereign.
- He doesn’t have the right to change or edit the message.
- His responsibility is to communicate the message clearly and accurately.

“We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God!”

We urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.

It is a warning to both believers and unbelievers.

- For the believer – give yourself fully to his work.
- For the unbeliever – come to Christ today.
Conclusion

We have a new perspective.
We are a new creation.
We have a new responsibility.