**R1044 - Rumination for Feb 2, 2025**

The **T**heme: **The New Birth** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *Therefore, if anyone ﻿is in Christ, he is ﻿a* ***new*** *creation; ﻿****old*** *things have passed away;*

 *behold, all things have become ﻿****new****.* 11 Cor. 5:17

**The Thots:**

Intro: **C**ulture **C**hanges with time. When I was young, the **C**hinese would not allow their **C**hildren to wear black during **C**hinese New Year as it would speak of death. It was taboo in **C**hinese **C**ulture then. Today, black is the fashion among the youths! With this **C**hange in **C**oncept may I take the liberty to touch on Death in relation to the New Year; hopefully, no one would object to it as this Death is a spiritual Reality that all must face.

**I. THE NEW BIRTH**

 **Christians or non-Christians – all have to die: *it is appointed unto men once to die.* Heb. 9:27**

1. **The Appointment for all men – Generally, All Must Die Once:**
2. If you are born once, you die twice.

a. *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:* Heb 9:27

b. *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.* Rev 20:14 NKJV

Cf. *﻿But the cowardly, ﻿unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters,*

 *and all liars shall have their part in ﻿the lake which burns with fire and brimstone,*

 *which is the second death.* Cf. Rev 21:8

1. If you are born twice (*born again*), you die once.
2. *Jesus…said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again,*

*he cannot see the kingdom of God. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.* John 3:3, 7

1. *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God,*

*which liveth and abideth for ever.* 1 Pet 1:23

1. *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:*

*on such the second death hath no power,* Rev 20:6

**B. THE TWO ADVENTS (Comings) OF JESUS.**

1. His **First** Advent was to **R**edeem.
2. *For even the Son of man came…to give His life a ransom for many.* Mark 10:45
3. *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many;* Heb 9:28a
4. His **Second** Advent is to **R**eceive back His own.

*In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.*

*I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you,*

*I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* John 14:2, 3

1. His **Second** Coming is to **J**udge those not His own.

*He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One*

*whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.*Acts 10:42

**The Conclusion:**

 *Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me*

 *has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.* John 5:24

**.**

**II. The New Year**

1. **Let us Look forward to the Return of Christ.**

For those who are Bereaved, be **C**omforted that the dead in **C**hrist will be **R**esurrected

and all will be **R**eunited - *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.* 1 Th 4:18

We have the Witness of a **C**elestial **C**ompany of witnesses to testify to this.

* 1. **They testify of Faith in God: Heb. 11:3**

 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is,*

 *and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.* Heb 11:6

* 1. **They testify of a Fulfilled life in God only with us included.** Heb 11:39, 40

*And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

*God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

1. ***Let us Run the Race before us.* Heb 12:1**
2. ***Let us*** *lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and…*
3. ***Let us******R****un with patience the* ***R****ace that is set before us,*
4. **Let Us Look Unto Jesus the Author of our Faith. Heb 12:2**

 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him*

*endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**New Year Resolution for 2025: *W****alk* ***W****orthy of the vocation* ***W****herewith ye are called.* Eph. 4:1

**Points To Ponder**: (Isa. 40:31) *But ﻿they that wait upon the Lord ﻿﻿shall ﻿****R****enew their strength;*

*They shall mount up with* ***W****ings ﻿﻿as eagles; They shall* ***Run****, and not be* ***W****eary; And they shall* ***Walk****, and not faint.*