**New Life for The New Year (Ephesians 4:17-32)**

 The beginning of the new year is a chance to renew the new life we have received through Christ. Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we get ready to welcome the new year with its new blessings, new realities and new spiritual fervor. God often reminds us through the year about the foundational aspects of His Word. One of those pillars is our lifestyle, which reflects our faith and creed. Today, as we stand on the cusp of the new year, we’re going to remember once more that lifestyle to which we are called as followers of Christ. Therefore, let us speak now about that new life, so that this coming new year may be a truly new experience in the Lord. Again, the beginning of the new year is a chance to renew the new life we have received through Christ. Let’s move to the details…

 The new life in Christ assumes a shaking off of the old life of sin and a wearing of the holy life. The words in the passage are sharp, the examples are many, but after all is said, the Apostle’s words rest on the terms “putting off and putting on”. Our new life in Christ is like a garment – you cannot “wear” the holy life without some effort. This holiness was something that the believers learned from the example of Christ. Putting on the new man meant having a lifestyle of justice and genuine holiness – not one of injustice by taking sides, not one of external and superficial holiness, but rather true holiness. What was intended was a life that was lived in the same holiness both within the church context and in the home, as well as everywhere else.

 For example, there was once a woman who asked a Christian teacher, “What is spiritual devotion in your opinion? The teacher said, extending an empty piece of paper to her – “True devotion is signing on the bottom of this empty page, and allowing God to fill it in whatever way He desires.”

 Today is the last Sunday of the year 2020. Let’s have a new life in 2021. Let it be with a fresh vision, a new spiritual fervor, a new holiness. May our dealings with each other reflect Christ, and may we be a blessing to all those around us. Let us put on Christ, and take off our old sin-filled life and throw it in the garbage.

 Happy New Year to all of you, and may the Lord keep you, and may 2021 be a year that brings joy to each of us and great glory to God. Amen.