

New Year. New Life. New You.
A Beautiful Life
Ephesians 2:10

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

[Introduction; *Mona Lisa* - Perfection in dimensions/balance, perspective, and technique]

I. Putting It All Together

- A. New Year
 - 2015 marks a new beginning; God is the inventor of new beginnings; What will begin anew for you in 2015?
- B. New Life
 - Will this be true of you in 2015? This is of ultimate importance (John 10:10; gospel).
- C. New You
 - If you have new life in Christ, this *is* true of you (2 Corinthians 5:17). But how are you living in 2015? (4 questions: Does the love of Christ control you? For whom are you living? How do you see people? What are you proclaiming to people?; Abide in Jesus Christ - John 15:5; time/place/quality)

II. Poetry in Motion (Ephesians 2:10)

- A. You're a Poem...a Masterpiece
 - As a human being (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:4-5)
 - This verse is speaking of one's status as a new creation in Jesus Christ
- B. Created by God in Christ Jesus
 - The very fact we have new life is not ours to boast about (v9); we are HIS masterpiece
- C. To do good works
 - We are created as a masterpiece for a purpose: to do good works
- D. Prepared for you
 - Gives us comfort and direction [*Junior Achievement's Biztown*]

III. What good works? [*Boat and its wake*]; Ephesians 4

- A. For all of us
 - How (vv 1-3) - Humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance in love, diligence in preserving unity; vv 17-22 show contrast, vv 23-24 reinforce how and why
 - What (vv 25-32) - Speak truth, Be angry without sinning, Stop stealing, Speak edifying words, Put away bitterness/wrath/anger/clamor/slander/malice, Be kind/tender-hearted/forgiving
- B. Just for you (v 7; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; cf Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12-14; 1 Peter 4)
 - Spiritual Gifts (e.g., Administration, Exhortation, Giving, Mercy, Service, etc.)

IV. Here's to 2015...and Beyond!

- A. For the glory of God (Matthew 5:14-16)
- B. For your good (John 14:23)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! (Psalms 8:4-5)

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good....But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. (John 14:23)