

A Message from Pastor Travis Dean

As we begin a new year, I again turn to my children for a fresh perspective. So much in life is new to them. I remember so many of their firsts. Their first cry. Their first dirty diaper. Their first smile. Their first taste of solid food. There are many firsts yet to come. Their first day in school. Their first car. Their first speeding ticket.

When we become Christians it's like becoming a baby again. In John chapter 3 Jesus refers to the experience as being "born again". I remember my "new birth" experience at the ripe old age of 25. So much in life was new. There were so many "firsts" – times when it seemed like I was doing things again for the first time. My first shave (I had had a full beard). My first laugh (I hadn't laughed in a LONG time). My first sermon (the testimonies that followed were such as I had never heard before). My first Bible study (I was just as excited as the students).

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that when we become Christians all things become new. What a wonderful experience this is! The second verse of the song "Amazing Grace" speaks of this:

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved,
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

Sometimes I wish I could go back and experience "the hour I first believed" all over again. There was such newness then. But I do find encouragement in God's Word. And of all places, it is in the mournful book of Lamentations. Chapter 3 verses 22 and 23 say,

"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning.
Great is Your faithfulness."

Every morning God brings newness. The same mercy and compassion, that makes us new when we first believe, meets us at the beginning of each day. As a new year begins, the year 2010, God's mercies are new. And they will be new every morning until Jesus comes.