



*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, Genesis 1:1*

This week we began another year. It is in the word “beginning” that we find all beginnings. At the first week of creation God is the initiator. He is the first before all else. God is the one who makes beginning possible. He is not limited to a calendar. He is the God who makes us new.

“*In the beginning God created...*” This was a beginning like no other. This was God who separated the sea from the dry land. He created by his word. He said, “Let there be” and there it was. He said it and it was done. This is the God who made us in our own image. We lost that image, because of sin. Sin is handed on to each human. Either we live in sin, not following God’s ways, or we are delivered from it. How can we recapture that original image?

Many people try to create an image of what 2011 will hold. Will it be a good year, a not so good year, or a bad year? No one knows. Sometimes we think that we are the ones who can create a good year. We try to initiate something good “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Even though we lost that image God restored us to his image in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new **creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Years ago, an angry man rushed through the Rijks Museum in Amsterdam until he reached Rembrandt's famous painting "Nightwatch." Then he took out a knife and slashed it repeatedly before he could be stopped. A short time later, a distraught, hostile man slipped into St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome with a hammer and began to smash Michelangelo's beautiful sculpture The Pieta. Two cherished works of art were severely damaged. But what did officials do? Throw them out and forget about them? Absolutely not! Using the best experts, who worked with the utmost care and precision, they made every effort to restore the treasures. Swindoll, Quest for Character, Multnomah, p. 49**

Where is God beginning something “new” in your life? He wants to be first, then others. Through faith God has restored you to that perfect image. When God looks at a Christian he sees them through the lens of the cross. The cross is where Jesus gave his perfect life as a sacrifice. He was our substitute. Through Jesus you are made perfect in God's eyes.

As you start another year know that God is not only the one who began your life, but also initiated faith in you. He will bring to completion this work of faith he has begun in you, Philippians 1:6. In fact, we are confident of this, because God is good. View every day as a “new” beginning.

Great is God's faithfulness!