

The God of New Beginnings

Scripture: Mark 16:7 NIV
Ezekiel 36:11 KJV

Introduction

Jesus Christ, in looking at people's lives, always looked beyond past failures. He looked to see the potential for spiritual success that each person had in his life.

His concern wasn't the person's past. Rather, He looked into their heart and saw what that person could be when he was forgiven and gave God the opportunity to work in his life.

I. The terrible failures of the past

Matthew 26:74-75 NIV Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I do not know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- A. The failure to resist temptation
- B. The failure to do God's will
- C. The failure to live daily as a Christian

II. The enormous guilt of the present

Isaiah 59:1-2 NIV Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

- A. The remembrance of past failures and sins
- B. The regret for opportunities lost
- C. The burden of inability to change

III. The gracious means of a promising future

Mark 16:7 NIV But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.

- A. God forgives sin and removes guilt

- B. God looks beyond our failures and sees our potential
- C. God equips us to be successful
- D. God gives us a new beginning

Conclusion

I'm free from the fear of tomorrow

I'm free from the guilt of the past

For I've traded my shackles for a glorious song

I'm free! Praise the Lord! Free at last!