

January Theme: A New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17



2 Corinthians 5:17 [ESV]

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

“A New Purpose in Life”

Romans 8:10-12

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Roger crab was a most unique gentleman, he may be the inspiration for the “mad hatter”. A protestant soldier in the English Civil War [1642-51], he was struck in the top of his head with a sever sword blow that lest him with an enormous gash. He became a dissonant within the protestant ranks.

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A 1655 Pamphlet “The English Hermite” by Roger Crab a pacifist soldier, who promoted egalitarianism and vegetarianism.

Jan. 15, 2023

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Cromwell had him arrested 2 times for speaking his mind. After the war he worked as a hatmaker and became quite radical in his religious views. He took an oath of celibacy, became vegetarian and espoused radical pacifism. Neighbors and friends viewed him as a “bit mad”.
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Romans 8:10-12 [ESV]

10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is **dead** because of sin, the Spirit is **life because of righteousness**.

11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through his Spirit who dwells in you**.

12 So then, brothers, we are **debtors**, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

“A New Purpose in Life”

Romans 8:10-12

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

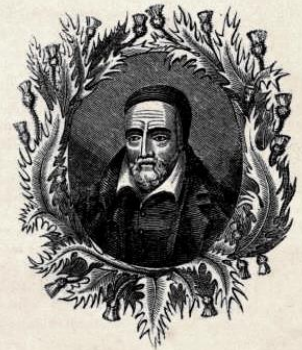
Many have wondered where Lewis Carroll got the concept of the Mad Hatter. While the artistic rendering was based on a local furniture maker. The concept of hatters as being mad first appeared in print in Blackwood's Magazine [1817-1980]. The 1829 [Jan-June issue] was the first appearance of the term “mad as a hatter”. This is likely the inspiration for the name but Roger Crab may well have been the model.

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BLACKWOOD'S
Edinburgh
MAGAZINE.

VOL. XXV.

JANUARY—JUNE, 1829.



WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH;
AND
T. CADELL, STRAND, LONDON.
1829.

Blackwood's Magazine
published from 1817-
1980. This 1829 edition
was the 1st mention of
“Mad as a hatter”.

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“A New Purpose in Life”

Romans 8:10-12

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Purpose is a powerful thing in our lives. Paul indicates in Romans that when Christ is in us things change in our hearts. We develop a new purpose in life. What was natural in our inclinations begins to sluff off and we become purposeful about serving Jesus Christ. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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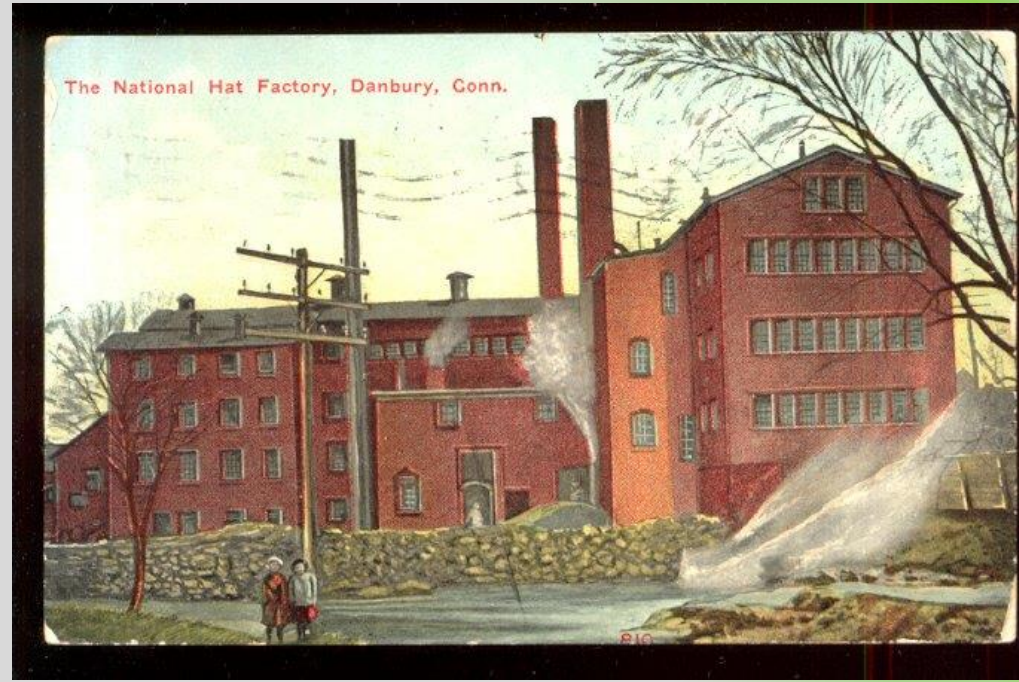
Jan. 15, 2023

Romans 8:3-5 [ESV]

3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

“A New Purpose in Life” Romans 8:10-12 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

National Hat Factory – Danbury CT, 1912. Danbury became a center of hat making beginning in 1780. Zadok Benedict established a hat factory in Danbury CT using the carroting process and a cone mold for the felt that that could be molded into seamless hats. His hat making factory was producing over 20,000 hats by 1800.



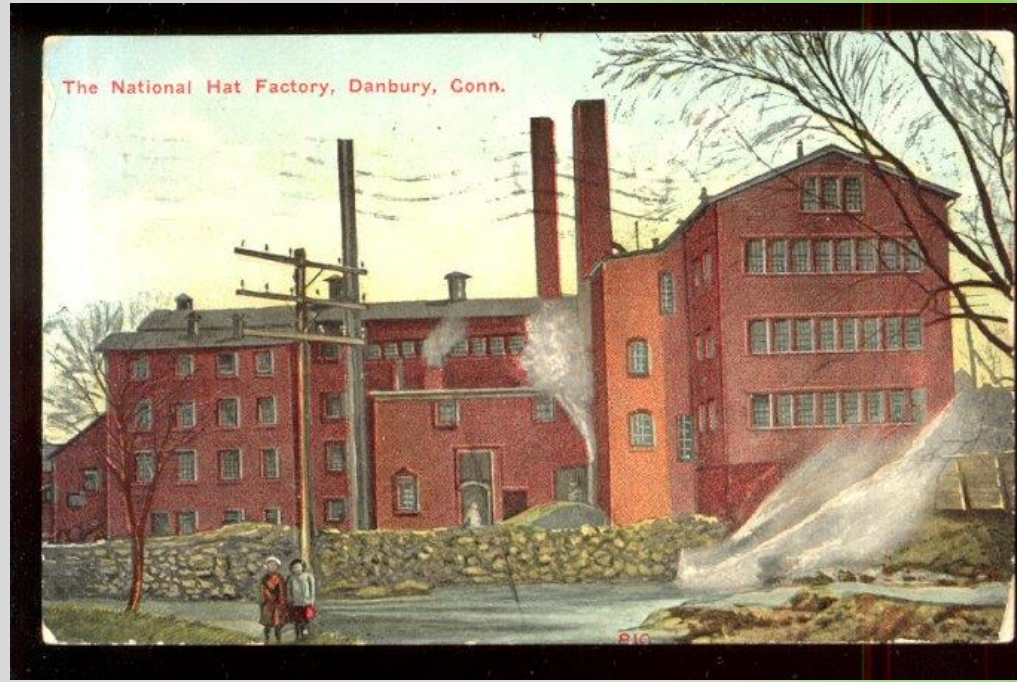
The real reason for this phrase “mad as a hatter” is likely an industry born in the late 1780s. Felt had been used for making hats for 1000s of years. In the mid 1700s a new technique for creating felt was developed that allowed for the easy use of fine straight fur rather than the traditional wool.

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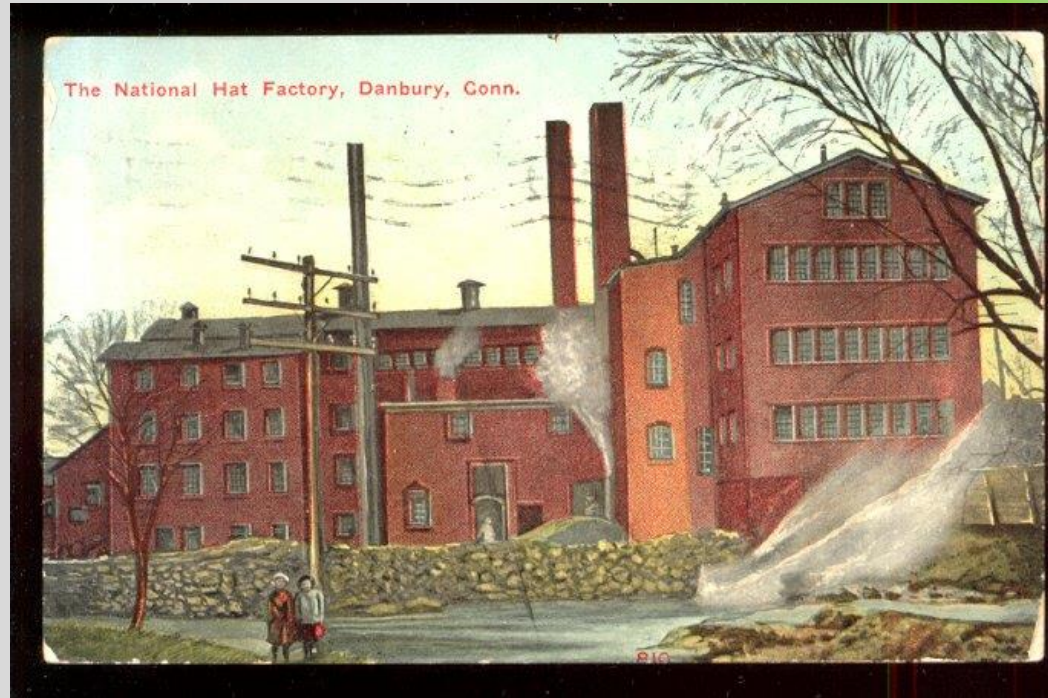
We often follow what seems a logical and right manner of life. From 1780 through the 1920 hats were produced that made the factory workers seriously ill. Paul in Romans 8:3-5 speaks to us about our way of the flesh. Jesus came in flesh to change our direction and purpose.

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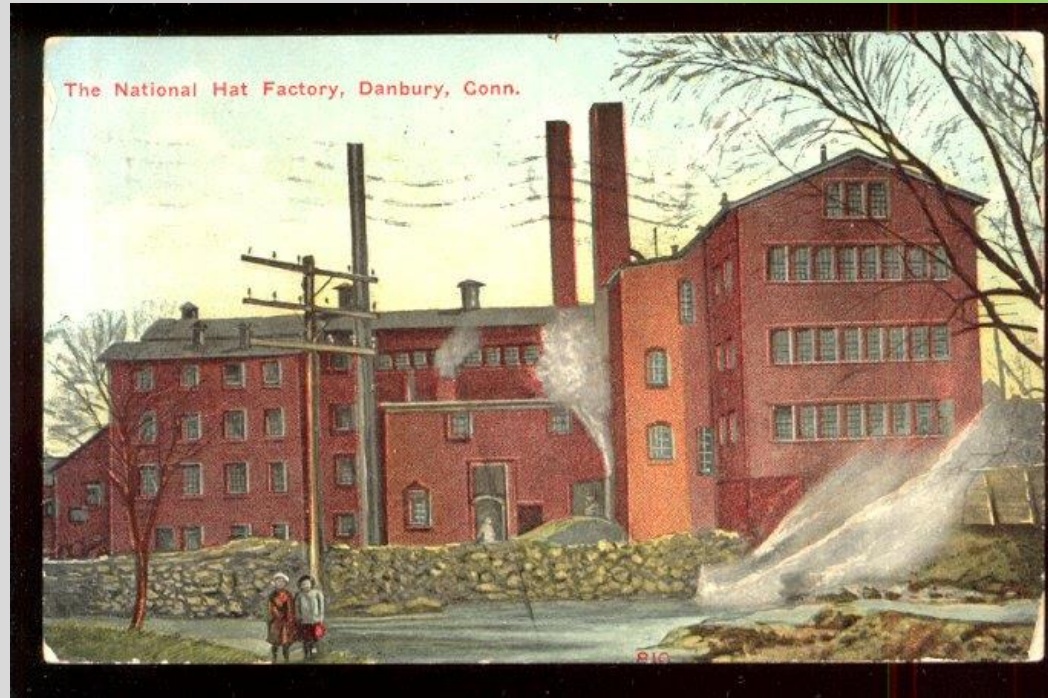
The fur hides were treated with mercuric nitrate. The furs were then baked in ovens, because of mercury present in the hides they took on a bright orange color that gave the name “carroting” to the process. The fur was easily stripped from the hide and blown into molds.

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The felt would be created by washing the felt molds with boiling water. This would set the felt and remove the mercury products. This was quickly applied to the hat making industry. In Danbury the development of “cone” molds allowed for the production of seamless felt hats.

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Colossians 1:27-29 [ESV]

27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

“A New Purpose in Life” Romans 8:10-12 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Workers in the hat factories developed mercury poisoning which led to symptoms such as trembling, difficulty in walking and speaking and hallucinations. By the late 1800s mercury was pegged as the culprit, but the business was so profitable that it was not until the 1920s that laws were passed to restrict the use of mercury in clothing manufacture.



**Mad Hatter by John Tenniel
[1865]**

“A New Purpose in Life” Romans 8:10-12 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Why did it take so long for things to change. Part of the problem of course was that it was profitable, but part was habit and willful ignorance. As Christians we can be caught up in practices that seem logical and successful but leave serious stains on our soul. Danbury still struggles with mercury contamination of the ground and water supply.



**Mad Hatter by John Tenniel
[1865]**

Romans 8:13-14 [ESV]

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

“A New Purpose in Life”

Romans 8:10-12

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Roger Crab was deeply disturbed by the events he witnessed during the Civil War and he became a quite different person following the war. We would probably now diagnosis him with PTSD. He believed that he must take everything in the New Testament very literally.



A 1655 Pamphlet “The English Hermite” by Roger Crab a pacifist soldier, who promoted egalitarianism and vegetarianism.

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He came to believe all people were equal a very radical view in 1655. He believed in separation of Church and State. He believed in abstinence from alcohol, all meat, and dairy products.



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Disasters in our lives might lead to change but it also often leads to radical and even destructive approaches as we try through our body to accomplish what needs to be done by the Holy Spirit. Roger Crab had some very good ideas but he also had some very destructive ideas. Drastic mood and lifestyle changes do not necessarily reflect a new purpose in Christ.

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A 1655 Pamphlet “The English Hermite” by Roger Crab a pacifist soldier, who promoted egalitarianism and vegetarianism.

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Ezekiel 37:12-14 [ESV]

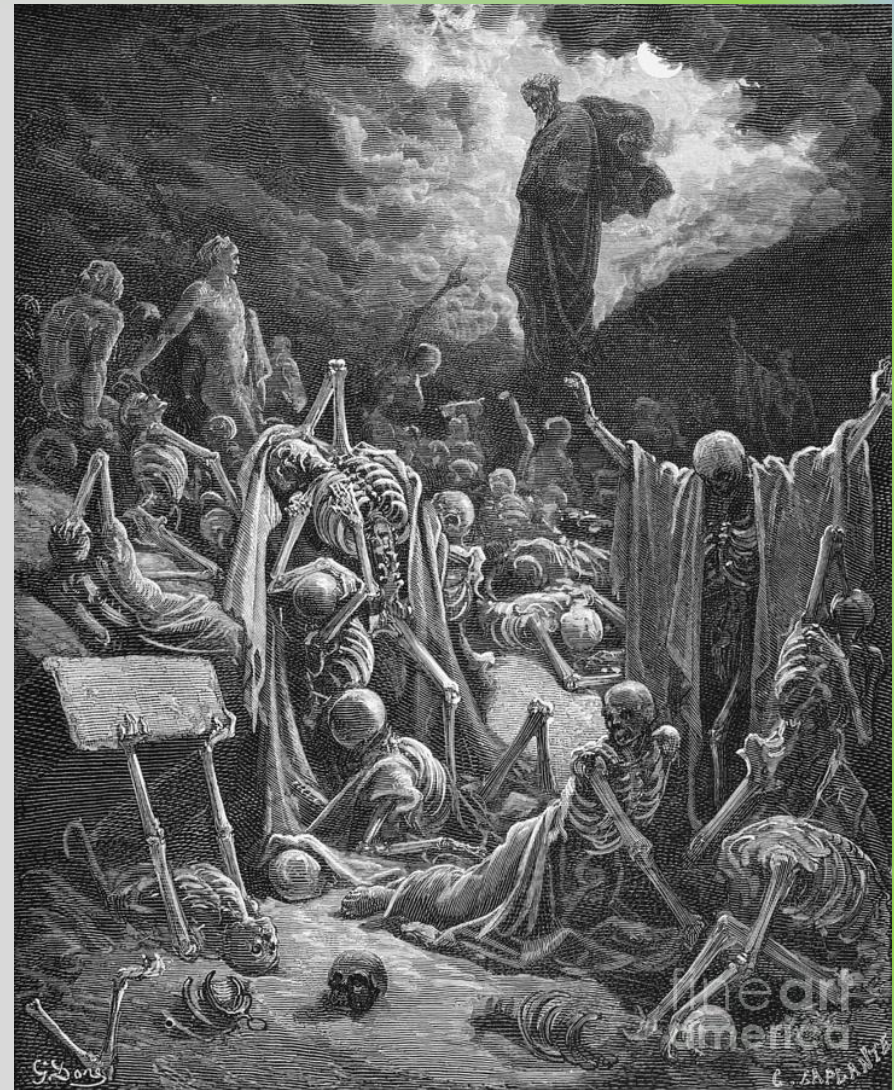
12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

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In chapter 37 of Ezekiel God give Ezekiel a vision of hope for the future and a real purpose for his life. The nation of Judah was pictured as a valley of Hinnom after the Babylonian captivity. Dead bodies strewn about, cast off and useless. Ezekiel was to prophesy to the bones. They came together and had flesh.



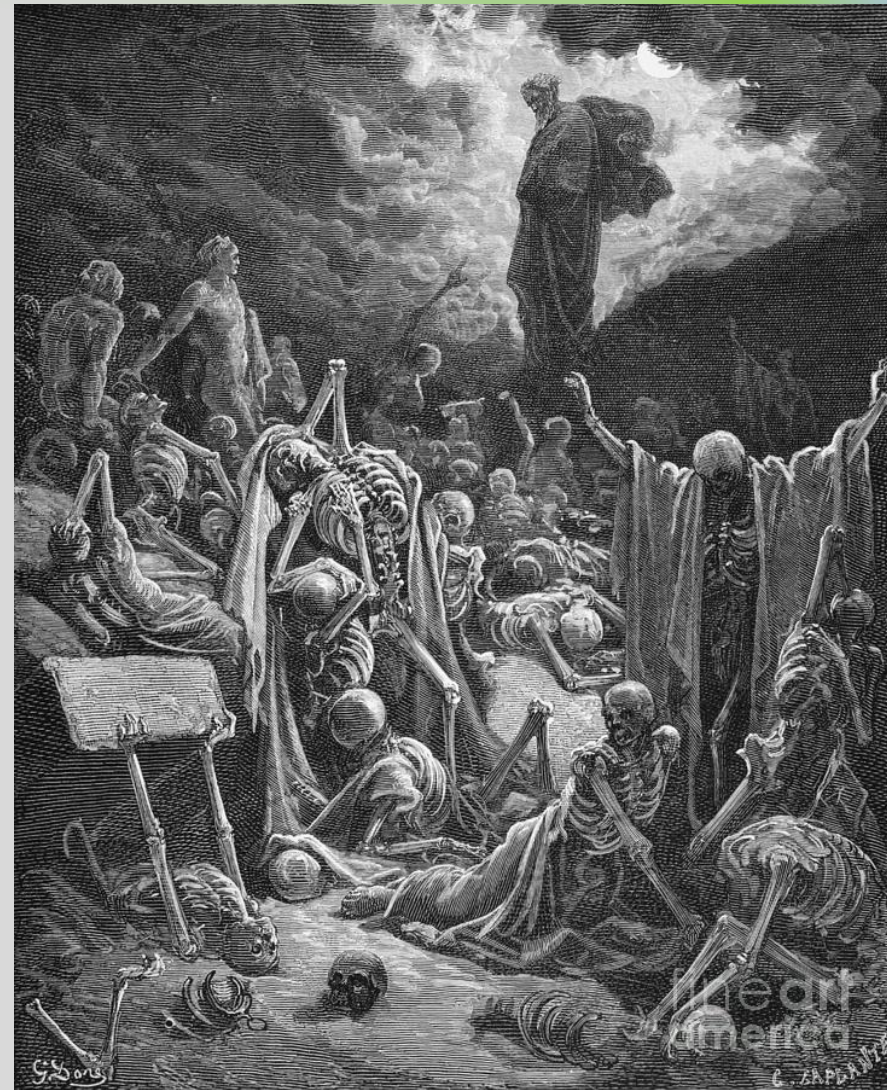
**The Vision Of The Valley Of Dry Bones,
by Gustave Dore’**

“A New Purpose in Life”

Romans 8:10-12

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

But it was not until Ezekiel invited the Holy Spirit into their situation that the dry bones lived and became a mighty group of people with a new and eternal purpose. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that gives us a sense of purpose and direction to our lives.



**The Vision Of The Valley Of Dry Bones,
by Gustave Dore'**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 [ESV]

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

“A New Purpose in Life”

Romans 8:10-12

2 Corinthians

5:14-15

The Arnolfini Marriage Portrait by Jan van Eck (1434). This painting is a revolutionary painting in artistic technique. It is also believed to be a memorial painting honoring Arnolfini's wife who died in childbirth the previous year. He wears a large straw hat popular in Europe at the time. Garrison Church of God



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Straw hats were developed in the middle ages and became quite popular. In this painting a merchant Arnolfina wears such a hat. The late middle ages saw a complete restructuring of Western Culture. A new sense of purpose and direction captured the imagination.



The Arnolfini Marriage Portrait by Jan van Eyck (1434).

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Paul speaks about having a sense of compulsion and direction in his life because of the “love of Christ” for him. This is our new sense of purpose we live for Christ. And as we do so we will be startled what God does in and through us.



The Arnolfini Marriage Portrait by Jan van Eck (1434).

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2 Corinthians 5:17



Becoming a new creation gives us
new purpose and direction in life.