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THE BULWARK

RESTORATION: WORTH THE INVESTMENT?

Okay, so it might be a bit of a stretch to think that one day, crushed soda cans could be used as “haute couture”. Nevertheless, there is some serious money to be made in recycling and restoring that which is cast aside, at least that is what Adam Minter asserts in his book, “Junkyard Planet”. Minter, the son of a scrap dealer, from Minnesota as well the author of “Junkyard Planet” and “Second Hand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale”, is quite candid about the multibillion –dollar industry of recycling. There is treasure to be made in the cast-offs from others. Copper to be salvaged, plastic to be repurposed and other items to be re-fashioned ala “Flea Market Flip” or some other television program highlighting something tossed aside being remade into a useful work of “art”.

Paul, as he wrote to the Philippians made the following observation, “...I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.” (3:8b) What he was referring to, was all that he accomplished in his life was of no account, when compared to the value of a relationship with Jesus (see Philippians 3:7-8a). Moreover, Paul was willing to fully embrace Christ and be transformed thereby. “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

It is quite apparent Paul was dedicated to the

process of restoration of self. Embracing an attitude like that of David when he penned the 51st psalm, seen especially in verse ten. “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” David recognized that his sins had cost him greatly; he needed to be renewed. Paul had also allowed his life to become entwined with sin and thereby brought it to ruin.



It is ever so easy to look at others, and see where they have brought their life to the “junkyard”. Don’t be naïve, all of us need to be restored. As Nathan told David, “You are that man!”, so it is with us; our life has become an accumulation of

rubbish. On the flip side however, in Christ there is seen restoration. God sees in each one worth and value. The core question then comes back to the individual, are if there is a willingness to put in the time an energy in order to realize the investment; that being the saving of a soul.

Take some time looking closely at 2Corinthians 5:14-17. Understand the context about which Paul writes, building to the following thought. “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” When one puts on Christ in the waters of baptism the restoration begins. That life is subsequently turned over to God, wherein, if one follows the directives He sets forth, He makes us into something new and useful for service. “And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.” (Col. 3:10) (wbe)