

Extreme Makeover

Ephesians 4:17-24

First Sunday in Lent

February 10, 2008

Does the name Ty Pennington ring a bell? If he were to ring your doorbell you might jump for joy. He's the wildly enthusiastic home design guru who finds families fallen on hard times and, with a little help from their friends, rebuilds a home for them in dramatic fashion. "Move that bus!" is a phrase etched in the minds of many Americans, the big moment of TV drama when the new is unveiled to the people who had only known the old and decaying. They are shocked by the extreme makeover.

Saul of Tarsus was going one direction on the road to Damascus when he was confronted by the Savior, and that revelation converted Saul the persecutor into Paul the Apostle. It was an extreme makeover. For Paul, the Gospel was not a message about being left in an old way of life without any guilt. On the contrary, meeting Jesus Christ meant receiving a whole new way of living, of learning to "walk" in an entirely new way. The contrast could not be more radical; new life in Christ in comparison with an old life apart from him is as different as night and day, as far apart as darkness and light.

I. *The Old Way of Life: Darkness of Mind to Dissipation of Life* – Ephesians 4:17-19

- "By nature children of wrath" – Ephesians 2:1-3
 - Paul returns to this sad state of affairs now to make the contrast between the old and the new, calling the Ephesian Christians to live the new life that is their new inheritance.
- A. The Downward Spiral of the Fall into Darkness
1. Futility of Mind
 2. Darkened Understanding
 3. Alienation from the Eternal and Loving God
 4. Hardness of Heart
 - The Fall is intellectual, relational, spiritual and physical
- B. The Terrible End Result of the Fall into Darkness
1. Calloused Conscience
 2. Hedonism Enthroned
 3. Uncontrolled Appetite (Greek word means "vice that flaunts itself and throws off all restraint")
 4. Pollution and Corruption
 - Note also, this progression in Romans 1:18 ff; it is cultural, as well as personal
 - So is Salvation

II. *The New Way of Life: Light of the New Creation in Christ* – Ephesians 4:20-24

- A. The pagan futile mind must be taught Christ (v. 20)
- B. The nature of true conversion
1. We learn Christ himself, not simply about Christ
 - Heard → Taught → Truth
 - In Union with Christ
 - Matthew 11:29
 2. We "put off" the Old Man
 - Stripping off filthy garments
 - Walking around with "corruption"

3. We are “renewed” in the spirit of our minds
4. We “put on” the New Man
 - a. Created in the image of God
 - b. Righteous and Holy
 - Isaiah 61:10

Conversion is nothing shy of new creation, of life beginning again. By God’s grace given to us in Christ, the Lord is starting history over again, personally and for the whole world. The personal and cultural disaster of the Fall is more than met in the power of the Gospel, that Christ has died for our sins and been raised from the dead, exalted as Lord and Savior. If any man be in Christ he is a new creation. Each of us are a “new man,” and together we live the life of Christ himself, who is in us, the “new man” God has brought forth by the word of his grace.

III. *The New Day for the New Man: Darkness and Light* – Acts 26:18; Genesis 1:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:5
“But rise and stand...I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

“And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘Day,’ and the darkness he called ‘Night.’”

“For you are all children of light, children of the Day. We are not of the night or the darkness...we belong to the Day.”

**This is true conversion; this is the power of the Gospel that saves;
this is the glory of amazing grace.**

You see, throughout “Extreme Makeover,” a story line is often running to show the audience how much the needy family deserves this new home, this incredible kindness. And that is the difference. We do NOT deserve our extreme makeover. On the contrary, we are the ones who ruined our lives through sin, ruining even other’s lives, as well. We deserve only wrath and desolation. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, has forgiven us and made us a new creation. He has furnished us with grace and peace, not because of anything we have done, but because of his relentless love, despite all we had done to resist him.