

MORE THAN REPAINTING

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (II Cor. 6:17)

I don't know if it is like this for everyone, but our summers seem to be full of Projects: Yard Projects, House Projects, etc. Oh, there are lots of times when we're just enjoying the weather, sitting in the yard, but those pesky Projects are always lurking in the background. Most of our Projects are attempts to make the "old" look "new". Take for example Project #147: repainting the house trim. Have you ever noticed that you can't just "do" a Project but there are things you have to "do" to even start? Well, what we have to "do" in order to paint the trim is 1) scrape old paint and then, 2) prime those parts. Nothing is ever simple is it? As I was scraping the other day, it occurred to me that I was not doing away with the old, ugliness of the trim; I was just covering it up. I didn't have to look very closely to see all the places that had been scraped, primed, and repainted before. From a distance, it looks pretty good but up close, not so good. It will never look brand new again.

What we are offered by Christ is becoming a *"new creation, the old has gone, the new has come."* He doesn't want to just repaint us and make us look pretty good but wants to make us brand new. As opposed to us, the trim of my house has no choice about what it looks like: new or old. Just as there is a process to the repainting of our house trim, so it is with changing us from old to new. Our outward selves are *"wasting away"* but *"inwardly we are being renewed day by day."* (II Cor.4:16) We have the option of staying in need of scraping and repainting or becoming "new creations". In all honesty, becoming a "new creation" requires quite a bit of scraping and repainting but the end result is a true newness, not just a cover-up. When that happens, the new, fresh creation we become goes clear through, not just something that looks pretty good from a distance. Even close up, the newness shines clear through. *"Do not conform (the choice is ours) any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (Rom.12:2a) There are parts of our "transformation" that are painful and parts that we sail through, but the process has a brand-new "me" at the end (not just a repainted one).

So, our choice is to remain connected to the old "self" that is all dressed up to look good or to be part of a new "creation" that is not just repainted but thoroughly changed. Scraping and repainting or becoming brand new: What choice will we make?

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (E ph.4:22-24)

Have a great week!

Georgia