

“Refurbished”?

by Wayne Goff

Some years ago when computers were still fairly new and all the rage, I chose to purchase a “refurbished” laptop from a now defunct company. It was the worst mistake I ever made in the realm of electronics, and it has made me steer FAR AWAY from “refurbished” anything!

A Second Thought

Logically, “refurbished” isn’t a bad concept but it’s only as good as the company behind it. But did you ever stop to think that every one of us, as Christians, is “refurbished”?! Oh no....

That’s right! You and I, because of sin, are “damaged goods.” It’s not because we were born with some “sinful nature,” but because “*all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). And that truth really irritates some people. Pride has a way of causing us to “recoil” when we think someone has insulted us. But keep in mind that this message is not mine, but God’s. Sin damages the mind, body and soul (**Ephesians 4:22-24**).

Now keep in mind that the word “refurbish” is not in the Bible. But it’s **thought** is definitely there – from **Genesis** to **Revelation** – in synonyms like “rehabilitate,” “restore,” “renew,” and “redemption.” Let me give you a biblical example of the **concept** of “refurbish:”

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” ~ Titus 3:5.

God tells us that we need to be “*saved*,” “*washed*,” “*regenerated*,” and “*renewed*”! All in one verse! And we get to **choose** whether or not to accept that gift of mercy! Pride and self-centeredness will keep us from humbly accepting God’s offer of grace and forgiveness. But for the humble in heart and mind, the offer of **forgiveness** and **eternal life** is amazing (**Acts 22:16**)!

Keep On Renewing!

As a Christian, we are constantly in need of renewal. The wicked world all around us beats us up spiritually every day. So the apostle Paul reminds us “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” ~ **Romans 12:2**.

The child of God, like everyone else, is growing physically older every day. But the child of God, *unlike everyone else*, is being “*renewed day by day*” (**2 Corinthians 4:16**) in the inward man! King David, woefully aware of his own shortcomings, prayed fervently, “*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me*” (**Psalms 51:10, KJV**).

Practically Speaking...

Before someone rises up to complain about all the work involved in being spiritually refurbished, let me remind each one of us that we have to do that physically every day! **Don’t we wake up and wash our face, brush our teeth, bathe or shower, put on deodorant, make our bed, get dressed, and wash our clothes when they get dirty?** Of course we do! We don’t complain because we see the need for it.

Then let’s make a spiritual application. Don’t wait until you meet God on the Judgment Day to realize that we all have “*fallen short of the glory of God*”! It’s not a shame to admit that we are not perfect. But God is perfect. If we want to have a relationship with Him, then we need to get ourselves all cleaned up, *spiritually speaking*.

How important is it? Jesus, God’s only begotten Son, shed His blood on the cross to provide us with the necessary cleansing power (see **Ephesians 1:7**). Even God’s children can have their “*robes ... made ... white in the blood of the Lamb*” (**Revelation 7:14**), when we repent. So what are you waiting for? “*...Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord*” (**Acts 22:16**).