

RESTORED TO NEW

SCRIPTURE:

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) old piece of furniture
- (1) toolbox with essentials
- (1) wood stain

MAIN MESSAGE:

When we obey the Gospel, we become made new through the blood of Christ. We become new, but we still have to keep growing. We must never stop polishing our souls. God wants our lives to resemble Jesus' life, and to do this, we must never stop growing. If we ever stop, our restored lives will be in danger of being broken down by the elements of the world.

SONG: "Bring Christ Your Broken Life"

LESSON:

I know many people who like to go out and find extremely old furniture so that they can fix it and restore it. This furniture has usually seen far better days. Over time, it has become weak and worn from the elements or from people not taking care of it like they should.

When somebody takes up a restoration project, they usually have one thing in mind: to make that piece of furniture like new again. If it has been painted, it will need to be stripped of the old paint. If it has been stained, it will probably need to be sanded. If the screws or nails are loose, they may need to be replaced. This is a long process which usually doesn't happen quickly. At some point when the furniture is structurally sound, the final step would be to stain or paint the furniture so that it looks as good as it ever has. The finished product will look far different than what the restorer started with.

In our lives, when we become Christians we are becoming restored to new. We have to sand off all the sin in our lives. We need to put in new nails to better hold us together. We need to be willing to become new! Like the furniture restoration, it can be a process that takes some time, but as long as we have that finished product in mind, we will be moving in the right direction. Eventually, we will get our lives on the right track. Our works-in-progress will become beautiful in the eyes of the Lord. When the furniture is fully restored, it will still take work to keep it looking good. We must be the same way in our Christian lives. Once we are on the right track, we need to keep polishing, cleaning, and dusting off our souls so that they will never go back to the former state they were in. When we are restored to new, that is where we want to stay forever!

PRAYER: Thank you for the sacrifice of Jesus that gave us the hope of eternal life in heaven. Thank you for restoring us to new through Jesus' blood. Help us to live the lives we should as Christians and be with us as we continue to work on keeping ourselves looking like new.