
Sermon Notes

December 27, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Do-overs and Makeovers

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Do-overs

- ❖ "I call a do-over!"
- ❖ For the most part, life doesn't offer us do-overs
 - past mistakes and misdeeds can be redeemed
 - God is in the habit of bringing good out of evil
 - *e.g.* Peter's denial

Makeovers

- ❖ Although life doesn't offer do-overs, God does offer makeovers
 - we all live with deep regrets about past failures and shortcomings
 - in the face of that, God offers us His *Extreme Makeover: Holy Spirit Edition*
- ❖ Made for TV property makeover programs give us a picture of what our lives are like apart from Christ

- our lives messed up, run down and ruined by our sin
- the foundations of our hearts have crumbled
- the walls of our spirits are cracked
- the power source of His presence in us has short circuited
- we don't need a do-over, we need a **MAKEOVER**
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:17 offers us the hope and assurance that God is in the business of extreme makeovers!
 - God's ultimate goal for us and for all of His creation is to roll everything back to its original, default, pre-sin condition
 - our sin sets up what Scripture calls *a dividing wall of hostility* between us and our righteous, holy God who cannot tolerate or even allow sin in His presence
- ❖ Because of His love and grace, because of His mercy and favor, God chooses to rewrite the ending of the story
 - 1 Peter 2:24
 - Jesus' sacrifice provides the basis upon which God comes to us and offers His extreme makeover

God's Extreme Makeover

- ❖ God looks at our broken down, sin stained lives and He sees possibilities
 - God knows us better than we know ourselves
 - God sees the potential in us that we cannot see

- ❖ God is able to do for us what we are incapable of doing for ourselves
 - only God can break our bad cycles of relating and behaving
 - without divine intervention real change is impossible
 - we don't need to "fix-up" or "rehab" our lives
 - we need God to demolish our own proud, willful, self-determining spirits and replace them with His Holy Spirit
- ❖ Only God can pay the cost for us to have His extreme makeover
 - the cost for a spiritual makeover is far beyond our comprehension
 - God's wrath against our sin is infinite
 - it requires an infinite Savior to absorb and pay the penalty for God's infinite wrath

A New Creation Requires A New Birth

- ❖ Becoming a new creation in Christ requires a spiritual rebirth
- ❖ Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3)
 - "How can I know for sure that I am saved?"
 - Jesus' stunning answer (John 3:3-6)

- ❖ Nicodemus is "religious", but he needs an *Extreme Makeover: Holy Spirit Edition* in order to gain entrance into God's kingdom
 - you cannot be a Christian without being born again and without having the total makeover Christ comes to give
 - spiritual rebirth is only possible when we ask God to move into our lives, to cleanse and forgive our sin
 - John 3:18, ***Whoever believes in [Jesus] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already...***
- ❖ Move forward into the new year reveling in the new creation you are becoming in Christ!

Personal Application

1. Do you find yourself living with regrets and longing for an opportunity to have a "do-over" so you can change your words, actions, or behavior?
2. How would you describe the difference between a do-over and a makeover? Which of the two will ultimately give you the best, most long-lasting result?
3. Have you invited God to begin His makeover process in you? If not, what is holding you back from doing so right now?
4. If you have asked God for His extreme makeover, are you fully cooperating with His transforming purposes within you? Has His work stalled in any way? Read Revelation 3:20 and consider what you need to do to restart the process.