

His Bright Light

I am currently restoring a car that is almost 50 years old and the during car's life it had accumulated a lot of dents and many coats of paint and body filler. The body shop began the paint removal process, which was slow and tedious work. Layer after layer of paint and the plastic body filler were stripped away to reveal the bare metal underneath. There were lots of large and small dents and even a few holes from rust that had been hidden under the old layers of paint.

I arrived at the body shop one day to see what looked like the first coat of paint being sprayed on the car but was concerned that this didn't look like the proper color I had selected. The body shop technician explained that the current white coat of paint was what was called a "shadow" coat. Although he had removed the major dents, he knew there were smaller ones that were still hidden. The light paint color would create shadows that would reveal the tiniest imperfections in the car body, so each of those little dents could be identified and marked for repair. As I watched the paint being applied, it was almost like magic as the surfaces that had looked dent free before, had all the shadowy imperfections illuminated by the light colored paint. The painter explained that the shadow coat and dent removal cycle would be repeated several times until the car was ready to receive its final coat of paint and was available for me to take it home.

It reminded me so much of my own life and how when I started out with the Lord, He began to work on stripping away the layers and revealing the rust and corruption in my life. This was painful and about the time I thought He was all done, He shined a bright light that revealed even more of all the imperfections that He wanted to start work on.

As I continue to get into God's Word, He shines His light of illumination and reveals all the dents and imperfections in my life. When I started walking with Him I thought I knew the depths of my sin and had identified those handful of obvious sins that I thought defined the boundaries of my sinfulness. But as I have walked with Him and He has shined His light into my life, He has continued to reveal how far I fall short of His holiness.

I thank God that He is a wonderful Heavenly father who, through Jesus, accepts you and me with all our imperfections. We need to welcome the bright light that reveals the shadows in our lives and allow God to bring those things into His light.

JOB 12:22 He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings deep shadows into the light.

PS 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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Offering: If you are visiting with us today we bid you welcome and want you to enjoy the service as our gift to you. All we would ask is for you turn in the little yellow card that Brad mentioned earlier so we would have a record of your attendance. If you have prayer requests, please share those so that we could pray for you and ask for God's intervention in your life.

An accountant was given a bible by a friend and he began to read it through. After he had finished reading it cover to cover his bible benefactor asked him how he liked it. He replied that he had enjoyed it all but from his background as an accountant he really liked the Old Testament better than the New Testament. The friend was a bit surprised since the Old Testament is a lot longer and more difficult reading in places. The accountant explained that as near as he could tell in the Old Testament, God really owned a tenth and in the New Testament God owns it all.