

move and work and live in the purpose of God. The Bible talks about 'walking in newness of life'.

In some ways, God does not repair us, He makes us new. The damage to our spirits was so great that our spirits have to be replaced. 'A new heart and a new spirit will I give you'. Repair part one is completed; the new heart has no sin in it, so it stops causing damage. The life in that spirit is eternal, it has no ending so it will not lead us to be discarded but to live with God for ever.

We mentioned our souls. That is the real you. We are all different, we are all unique and yet loved of God; the new heart works in our souls to restore them to how they should be, just like a broken vase being restored to beauty and function. The life and the love come from the Lord Jesus who, we are told, 'will not break a bruised plant stem or put out a smoking flax'. Jesus comes to restore, to repair, to comfort and to care, and work His love in us so that the damage done to us as people is gently and carefully put right. Then we have our bodies. They age, they get older, and even though the body is an astonishing piece of equipment it will eventually stop working. Jesus can heal our bodies. In His death He took on Him all our sicknesses, physical, mental, whatever, Jesus took them all; we can be free, we can be made whole. Wonderfully too in the repair job Jesus does for us in our living, He can put His life into the mortal bodies in which we live on the earth. Yes, bodies get older, but Jesus can bring His life so we can function and serve God in the power of the Spirit of God and find an ability in us which is beyond the limitations of human beings. We will not have sin working in us any more, we will have the life of Jesus and what a difference that makes. It is wonderful, it is God's perfect repair job for us, so we can serve Him and know His blessing on the earth.

Yes, our bodies will eventually stop working. I am sure none of us wants to get older and older with just our bodies alive, more and more wrinkles and

more and more weakness, with the inability to do what we used to do. So, death becomes our servant if we know Jesus Christ and have received Him. It takes us to be with Him, which is 'far better'. The separation has been repaired; we can be with Jesus for ever. Our bodies? No problem, when Jesus comes again and we see Him, we shall be like Him. He will change our bodies to be like His 'glorious' body, and they will live for ever. No aging, no sickness, no mental health problems, just eternal life for ever and for ever.

The perfect repair? Yes, really. In any repair some things have to be replaced and other things remain. With the work of God, we get new bodies, we get new hearts and new spirits, we receive new life. It is all new, but you and me we are still you and me, we are not lost, we are not beyond repair, we are not discarded. The opposite is true, we are repaired, restored for ever, we have eternal life and can be with Our Lord Jesus for ever. All repairs that human beings do will not last for ever, however good they look, but here is the 'repair' which God provides, removing all that is old and dead and damaged, to make sure you and I live for ever. He gives us eternal life once we receive the Lord Jesus, so we can live lives by His grace, power and love on the earth, ready for the ultimate 'repair' - new bodies at Jesus's return, when we will be totally restored to God and will be with Him and serve Him for ever.

So let Jesus restore you, come to Him for the perfect, eternal repair.



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The Perfect Repair



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The Perfect Repair

In England there is a wonderful TV programme called the 'Repair Shop' where people bring old items, usually of sentimental value, for repair. The results produced by the highly skilled craftsmen are just amazing and often bring tears to the eyes of the people when they see their valuable objects restored. Everything from broken pottery to paintings, damaged wood or metal work and so much more are 'brought back to life'.

We all like to be able to mend things when they are broken; perhaps we struggle to get it right but often we don't like to throw things away. The picture of the glue on the front of this pamphlet illustrates just one of the ways we use to repair broken objects. Lives get broken too, from mind to body and everything in between. Human beings are such complicated pieces of machinery, there are many ways in which we can go wrong. King David in the Bible, if we use a modern translation, says, "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex". The thought rather 'blew him away' when he stopped to consider what an amazing creation he was; many of us have had the same thoughts. Human beings are amazing, but we do go wrong; that is the problem, and putting us right can be really complicated too. Humans are not just bodies but souls and spirits too, three parts. The psychologist does not really recognise the existence of 'spirit' but they very much accept the existence of the soul, our mind, will, emotions and so on, and that, just as much as our bodies, can need repair. Souls are often much more difficult to repair as they are really complex, and the more pressurised modern society becomes the more people suffer from 'mental

illness'. The challenges of repair, whether of bodies or minds, are huge, much more than a broken watch or damaged painting for the repair shop craftsman.

The repairs from the 'Repair Shop' don't and can't last for ever; eventually the object becomes 'beyond repair' and is just discarded. We don't really want to do that with Human Beings; there is the wish for something to take place which puts them right so that they will never be discarded.

There is a very rich American business man who has just announced that he is giving much of his fortune to research into eternal life. It is said he wants to live for ever, and is hoping our genetic profile can be 're-engineered' so that we can live for ever. There is always a looking for the answer to eternal life and being able to avoid the inevitability of death.

Lots of people of course look to doctors, to scientists and so on to develop the perfect repair so that whatever goes wrong with us can be put right. When things do go wrong doctors can do amazing things, heart transplants, liver transplants, drugs, and other medicaments to remove the agent causing the damage. It works and people are grateful, but however good the repair it is all time limited; the end will come. There is really no long term, everlastingly perfect repair.

We find that God too, that is the God of the Bible, has the same wishes, that human beings should continue for ever and, even better, should continue with Him for ever. We find, however, His understanding of the problem human beings have is rather different to that of the current world. God identifies a thing called 'sin', disobedience against God, which is in human beings. It is in every human being, and it is

that sin, and its outworking, which eventually puts us 'beyond repair'.

So, what is God's solution? We need something which will last for ever; we need the perfect repair which makes sure we don't need anything else later on. But to solve the problem, God has to do something which will remove sin, the causative factor of the damage to us, just as the surgeon will endeavour to remove all of a cancer. Sin causes 'spiritual death', and that causes the damage in human beings which means eventually we die and will be lost forever. It is interesting in the 'Repair Shop', which we watch on the TV, the first thing they often do is to clean the object for repair. God does that, He washes away our sin.

God's answer is a person. His name is Jesus Christ. Jesus, God's only Son, came to the earth and lived a life without sin. So there was no damage to Him which would need repair and lead eventually to Him being discarded. Jesus had in Him life, eternal life, which overcame sin and found a way through the damage for Jesus and all human beings. Because Jesus had no sin, there was no death in Him. The payment for sin is death. God therefore was able to put on Jesus all the sin of the whole world. Everything that everyone has ever done which is wrong, and in particular everything we have done against God, was put on to Jesus. He took the full force of the damage sin causes in every human life and died, offering Himself to God as a means of forgiveness for sin and a means of its removal from human lives. Jesus not only died but rose again from the dead. God raised Jesus from the dead as there was no sin in Him, nothing that could cause permanent damage, and in that resurrection brought new life to human beings. When we go back to the 'Repair Shop', those for whom the repairs are done will sometimes say, 'You have brought it back to life'. They have, it is re-usable, and in the same way God, through Jesus Christ, brings us back to life. We are re-usable from God's point of view, the damage which sin caused has been removed and we can now