

## From Rags to Riches



I came across this “rag rug” which is now over 48 years old. (And yes, it is a bit worn) Mom had several rag rugs made for us before we were married. Mom was the original re-cycler. She used to use every scrap she could find to make something. One thing never wasted was material. Mom would take old useless cloth items and cut them into endless miles of strips and then roll them into balls. These balls would then be taken to "the lady with the loom", who turned those balls into beautiful rag rugs. As a

teenager, I was embarrassed to have these rugs in the house – after all, we had enough money to buy our rugs from the store!

Our world is "graced" with restored rags. When God sent Jesus to be the Savior, He knew that He was picking up the bits and pieces of ruined and junked lives and would be working His great beautification projects on them. Through the Word and the Spirit, God doesn't just recycle - He makes all things new (2 Cor.5:17 ESV “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”). God doesn't desire to throw anything away as our disposable society is prone to do. He wants all to come to the knowledge of the truth and all to be saved (1 Tim 2:3-5). Jesus is the one who takes us - the scraps of this fallen creation - and puts us through the loom of repentance, forgiveness and grace to knit or fashion us together into a beautiful tapestry of the Church (1 Peter 2:4-5). God builds the Church by making disciples of individuals, strand by strand, person by person, through Word and sacraments. In 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, we are reminded that God called the weak, the low, the despised to be His. Sometimes, we look around and we are embarrassed - and like the Pharisees - we ask why God would possibly include this "trash" in His kingdom. But He does, and you and I are part of that beautification program. Praise God for He is good.

As we journey through life, may we be reminded that Jesus Christ paid the price. He was the final sacrifice. We have been given the FREE gift of eternal life. We will live with Him forever as His new creations.

Romans 6:23 ESV (Starting with the bad news and ending with the good news): “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”