



Redeemed Junk

Dear Friends,

My family loves to watch *American Pickers*, a TV program where two guys search the country side looking for valuable “junk”. Sometimes they get leads by phone and can drive directly to locations with great finds. But often they just drive around looking from side-to-side, hoping to see dilapidated out-buildings. Invariably, the camera follows them to the door where they ask for permission to scout around and purchase anything they deem can be restored and sold.

At this point in the program, I’m ready to switch channels. I can’t imagine why anyone would want to rummage through someone else’s junk. All that dust and disorder would drive me nuts. BUT now my husband... its at this same point when my husband’s eyes light up. He would join them in heartbeat if he could. Yes, we have spent many hours on holidays or during date-days, at wrecking yards or second hand stores—he seeing treasures in every corner and me sitting in the car finding treasures in a good book. Alas, one person’s junk is truly another person’s treasure.

I am very, very thankful that God is like my husband, that he loves to look in the most unlikely places for the world’s cast-offs. I am very, very thankful that God isn’t put-off by the shape those cast-offs are in.

*Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and **chose us in Christ** to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to **adopt us into his own family** by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that **he purchased our freedom** with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.*

Let yourself get caught up in the mystery once more:

God chose us in Christ.

God adopted us into his own family.

God purchased our freedom.

WOW! You might have been cast off by someone else but you were and never will be cast off from God when you believe in Jesus to take away your sin. That is the wonder of God’s love and mercy and justice.

Blessed Assurance by Fanny J. Crosby and J.F. Knapp

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above, Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness lost in His love.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

I am very, very thankful that God embraces and redeems cast-offs like me.

Blessings from Bev