

# Restored

CARS, GOD, AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

## SERMON NOTES

Week 1 June 15, 2025

“Restoring ‘Project Cars’”

Genesis 1:27; Romans 1:18; Luke 19:10;  
Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12, 80:3; Ezekiel 36:26-27;  
2 Corinthians 5:17; Isaiah 64:8

### I. Project Cars

A. A \_\_\_\_\_ car is a vehicle that requires significant work and effort to restore, modify, or improve.

B. We are a little \_\_\_\_\_, like project cars.

### II. God’s View of Humanity

A. God sees all the things \_\_\_\_\_ with us, but he doesn’t stop there.

B. Like a person that works on project cars, God looks at us and says “I can \_\_\_\_\_ this.”

C. Christ gave his life to purchase you, redeem you and to \_\_\_\_\_ you.

### III. Restoration

A. Everything about the Christian spiritual life is about God’s \_\_\_\_\_ of us.

B. In order to be restored, we have to be willing to say “Please Lord, create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.”

C. The church is God’s \_\_\_\_\_ yard. All of us here are projects in need of restoration.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *June 16-21, 2025*

## INTRODUCTION

They are known as Junkers or clunkers, survivors, rust buckets, beaters, or heaps – old cars that have seen better days. They may seem like hopeless causes destined for the junkyard. But in the hands of an expert auto restorer, these cars can be made better than new. So what does this have to do with the Christian faith?

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### Monday: Mark 2:13-17, Luke 19:1-10

Pastor John Killinger wrote, “Most of us are careful about whom we are seen with. Jesus daringly identifies himself with ‘the wrong people.’ For Jesus to call Levi as a follower and to eat at his home with his associates was unthinkable to the scribes and Pharisees.” \* Which do you see as more important for yourself and your church: impressing all the “right people” or doing ministry in Jesus’ unthinkable daring spirit?

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### Tuesday: Romans 3:9-20, 23

Paul’s wrap-up stung for those who hoped pious deeds would set them right with God. “Anyone who imagines that they can stand before God and appeal to ‘works of the law’ as a reason for final justification, that is, for a favorable verdict at the last judgment, is barking up the wrong tree.” \*\* The darker the night, the more clearly we see the stars. How does Paul’s view of our darkness without God help you see the light of God’s grace more clearly?

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### Wednesday: Galatians 5:16-25

Paul was clear-eyed about human brokenness. (Review his examples in verses 19-21 and note how he mixed socially “respectable” actions with things almost everyone rejected.) He didn’t prefer self-righteous “goodness” (“all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse” —from Galatians 3:6-11). How did his choice of the term “fruit” in 5:22 focus attention on the spiritual roots of the nine key Christian traits he listed as growing in our lives?

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### Thursday: Psalm 51:7-12, Ezekiel 36:26-27

We humans are remarkably good at rationalization. Do you understand the inner or outer forces that most often drive you to justify or excuse actions you might need to change if you faced them honestly? If you find it a struggle to admit to yourself, others, or God that certain actions or attitudes were wrong, read Psalm 32. Many Bible students believe David wrote that psalm after giving up his efforts to hide his wrong actions and writing Psalm 51.

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### Friday: Matthew 23:23-28

People whitewashed tombs to warn pilgrims (e.g. for Passover) not to defile themselves by touching a tomb. Jesus said no matter how good it looked it was still a tomb. He compared this to the Pharisees, who may have looked good on the outside but were still corrupt. How does that apply to trying to look good to others when you really aren’t?

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## MOVING FORWARD

The process of restoring an automobile is a great metaphor for what scripture says that God does with us. He sees us, not simply as we are, but as we could be. And he is an expert at restoring people. Christ gave his life to purchase you, redeem you, and to restore you; and all of us need to be restored. But in order to be restored, we have to be willing to say “Please Lord, create in me a clean heart.” Are you willing to let God restore you?

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) project, B) broken. IIA) wrong, B) fix, C) restore.  
IIA) restoration, B) clean, C) salvage.*

\* John Killinger, *His Power in You* (The Devotional Commentary: Mark). Waco, TX: Word Books, 1978, p. 19.

\*\* Wright, N.T., *Paul for Everyone*, Romans Part One: Chapters 1-8 (pp. 50-51). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.