

Thought for the day
From Sandra Collins

Good morning

Today's reading comes from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth
2 Corinthians 5: 16-19

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view, even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

God through Jesus has reconciled the world to himself. Paul had a difficult relationship with the church in Corinth and he was pleading with the church to reconcile with him.

One of my projects throughout lockdown has been diamond painting. It is a canvas divided into small squares and each square has a letter indicating what colour diamond to use. The diamond is in fact a plastic coloured bead. It is a bit like painting by numbers without the paint. I started with what can be described as a blank canvas and as the work progressed a picture emerged. A change takes place. The canvas is treated with some sort of glue and a tool called a drill is filled from a small solid block of glue which then sticks the diamond to the canvas. I do not consider myself to be artistic in any way but I enjoyed creating my picture. It was a good way to relax and to pass time.

Verse 19 of the reading reminds me of The Lord's Prayer, 'not counting their trespasses against them.' When we pray the prayer that Jesus taught we say 'forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.' God offers us forgiveness when we are truly sorry. When we open our hearts in forgiveness of others we may also open ourselves to be reconciled with them.

Things change in the world in our surroundings and in our lives. As individuals we change. Circumstances over the last few months have caused us all to change the way in which we live. People have made a conscious effort to contact friends and family members. On the street people are passing the time of day with strangers.

Accepting Jesus into our lives and hearts brings great change. The phrase being born again is sometimes used to describe this experience. As individuals with different stories to tell there is one thing we have in common, we are a new creation.

In order for my painting to be a success the diamonds must stick and hold fast placed within the guidelines. If I strayed from within the lines all was not lost I went back and replaced the diamond in the correct square.

Hold fast onto the reassuring love of God, stay strong in faith and in the knowledge of his love for us. Live your life in the way Jesus taught.

Whatever today may hold,
whatever tomorrow may bring,
the future is secure, for Christ is with us,
the same yesterday, today and forever.
Live each moment with him
in quiet confidence and joyful celebration,
for he is yours, and we are his for all eternity.
Amen.

I hope you all have a good day. Sandra.

Singing the faith 533 I am a new creation

I am a new creation,
no more in condemnation,
here in the grace of God I stand.
My heart is over-flowing,
my love just keeps on growing,
here in the grace of God I stand.

*And I will praise you, Lord,
yes, I will praise you, Lord,
and I will sing of all that you have done.
A joy that knows no limit,
a lightness in my spirit —
here in the grace of God I stand.*

Dave Bilborough (b. 1965)

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Yvw_eV36sQ

SCROLL DOWN TO SEE SANDRA'S amazing PICTURE of The King.

