

## Distressed and Road Worn

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Maybe it is a sign that I am getting older, but I sure see a lot of strange thinking today. Take, for example, the popular trend of purchasing new blue jeans with holes already worn in them. These are marketed as distressed jeans. When I get holes like that in my jeans I get rid of them. Well, I used to get rid of them, until I found out there are places that will buy my torn up jeans and sell them to people who like jeans that look worn out. I don't get it.

On various home improvement shows you will sometimes see the designers or homeowners buying *new* furniture, only to take a chain and hammer to it to make it look like *old* furniture! As a child, I would get in trouble for scratching my parent's furniture. If only I could have told them I was only trying to give it some "style." Ironically, you will see antique shows where people have ruined the value of a piece of antique furniture, or other vintage item, by restoring them! I don't get it. Neither do I understand guitarists paying *extra* money to purchase a new guitar that is made to look road worn with scratches, dings and dents. If you go to sell a guitar that has scratches, dings, and dents you get *less* money for it! Again, I don't get it.

Thankfully, this fascination of making things look old and beat up does not apply to everything. We certainly would not want to apply it to our bodies. On the contrary, the desire is to remove the dings and dents of our bodies. We don't like looking distressed and road worn. Many people want to continue to look younger, even as they age, and will pay good money to surgeons to do so.

Life is hard on the body. We bruise easily, both emotionally and physically. Bones break, organs fail, and time weakens the body. Eventually, this earthly body fails and we experience death. Solomon described it well in the last chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes. Notice a few examples of how he poetically describes the difficult process of aging:

In the day that the watchmen of the house tremble, and mighty men stoop, the grinding ones stand idle because they are few, and those who look through windows grow dim;  
Ecclesiastes 12:3

The watchmen of the house trembling is a poetic reference to the failing of our knees; the mighty men stooping, a picture of the weakening of the back; the grinding ones standing idle, the losing of our teeth; looking dimly though through windows is a picture of our failing eyesight.

While our mortal bodies are destined to fail, there is good news: The moment will come when we in Christ will be given new bodies.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body.

1 Corinthians 15:42

Notice that Paul refers to our new body as being imperishable. This means it will not be a body subject to aging. It will be a body designed to house our spirit for all eternity. This imperishable body will not bruise, break, or fail. How wonderful that will be!

When we get to heaven, I cannot imagine anyone asking God to give them a vintage looking, distressed and road worn earthly body, can you? The old hymn says it well, "How beautiful heaven must be."