2 Timothy 2:21

Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

A ***"vessel for honor"*** does not always mean a gorgeous looking vessel. Did you notice that today's verse says that ***"if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor."*** But it never says what that vessel looks like on the outside.

You can have a gold goblet and an old, worn out, chipped cup, and most would choose the gold goblet to drink from. But what if that gold goblet was laced with arsenic inside of it, and the old, worn out chipped cup was laced with healing elements inside of it. If you drank from the wrong vessel, you could die based upon your choosing by appearance and not by what the vessels truly contained. It's just like the old saying *"You can't judge a book by it's cover"* it's also true that *"You can't judge a vessel by it's appearance."*

Think about the apostle Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament. Have you ever thought what he looked like? I looked online and it says that Paul was *"a man small of stature, with a bald head and crooked legs, in a good state of body, with eyebrows meeting and nose somewhat hooked, and full of friendliness."*

Another said that *"he had a bald-headed, was a bowlegged short man with a big nose, and an unbroken eyebrow that lay across his forehead like a dead caterpillar."*

And still another says that *"he was a man of middling size, and his hair was scanty, and his legs were a little crooked, and his knees were far apart; he had large eyes, and his eyebrows met, and his nose was somewhat long."*

Reading these descriptions of Paul, it's obvious that he would never be on the cover of GQ, Men's Health or Men's Fitness magazine. Yet we put so much emphasis on the outward appearance, so much so, thinking that others won't even listen to us or have anything to do with us, unless we look good.

Now, don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with wanting to look good, especially when you are out in public. But if we took Paul's teachings, which once again, is a large portion of the New Testament, and based them upon how he looked, most would ignore his teachings and walk away if he was there teaching in person.

Paul even says:

- ***"For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."*** **2 Corinthians 10:10**

But that never stopped Paul, because he knew too well that the appearance of the vessel does not mean a thing, but rather what is in the vessel and what others are drinking from that vessel are what really matters.

A lot of you have never met me or even know what I look like. I could be tall or short, thin or fat or in between. I could be bald, or have long hair, or have a mohawk. I could be like Paul and have an eyebrow that lays across my forehead like a dead caterpillar. But when you read the teachings here, you do so because of the words being taught, not because I am anyone special or famous or popular. I am a vessel just like you are, and I pray that I am "***a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.***" That's my prayer all the time. I don't need to pray about my appearance, because we all get old, and the older you get, the more you realize that what's inside of you as a vessel is way more important then what you look like on the outside.

I believe that's one reason there is no real physical description of what Jesus looks like, is that God does not want us to worship an image of Jesus, but rather worship Jesus for Who He is, not for what He looks like. The bible describes Jesus as:

- ✞ **Isaiah 53:2** ***"For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him."***

Jesus said,

- ✞ **Matthew 23:26 (NLT2)** ***"You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too."***

as well as

- ✞ **Luke 11:39 (NLT2)** ***"You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and wickedness!"***

So, let's all be vessels of honor and glory for the Lord, putting more effort on what's inside of us that we are pouring into others, GOD, rather then what's on the outside, sometimes giving a false image of what's really inside (Arsenic vs healing medicine).

- ✞ **John 7:24** ***Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.***