

We cannot show at one and the same time that we are clever and that Christ is wonderful.
William Barclay

The Art Show

I discovered a little art show one day while touring the countryside. As I looked thoughtfully around, I saw a variety of original work by local and regional artists. It was pretty good, but not really that outstanding. I am always interested to see the ideas of artists who are trying to make it into the big time; those who are trying to 'find' their own style and technique.

I kept wandering, however, and I eventually found an interesting area off to one side. The art here was advertised as the products of famous artists. But some of the people there were even at that moment in the process of painting on these canvasses. Upon closer inspection, I found works that were indeed classic paintings of the masters which were quickly being made unrecognizable.

One example was that of a beautiful but originally very simple cross that had been ornately decorated. It had become so covered up with confusing 'extras' that the beauty had become lost. I asked one of the workers there why he was doing this, and he told me that he didn't think that the original was very pretty. Another 'painter' told me that he had received special instructions from the artist, though I knew he had been dead for many years.

It was hard to believe what they were doing. There was no recognition of the touch of the masters' hands. These people wanted to present themselves as better than those of true geniuses. Even when the "make-over" was cleverly done, there were always differences in style that clashed with the original. Such things as the brush strokes, for instance, that were characteristic of the great painters were not being duplicated very well.

I was very saddened that there were those who were not satisfied by classic beauty; it was not sufficient for them. I would much rather see art of the masters where not a brush stroke was added or taken away. The great blessing that comes from the original is a real appreciation of the true genius that created it. We must not run the risk of hiding that Beauty in our lives.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Revelation 22:18-19

See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.

Deuteronomy 12:32

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