

PLEASE OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-6:2

We are doing a series called “Restoring Your Life” from the story of the PRODIGAL SON (Luke 15) -*What’s the process I go through to receive life & joy?*

THE PRODIGAL SON IS A STORY OF RESTORATION

- In verses 11-13 the son is “sick-of-home” *he leaves home*
 - In verses 14-16 the son is “sick” *he remembers home*
 - In verses 17-19 the son is “home-sick” *he leaves for home*
 - In verses 20-24 the son is “home” *he is restored at home*
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Definition “RESTORATION”

Hebrew: A primitive root; “to turn back” (hence, away) transitively or intransitively, literally or figuratively (not necessarily with the idea of return to the starting point);

Greek: “to set in the joint” such as a broken or dislocated bone to complete thoroughly, that is, repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust: - fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect (-ly join together), prepare, restore. LIKE PUTTING ON A CAST

Last week we looked at “RETURNING”;

- A response to RETURN leads to a RECONNECTION
 - This week I want to look at “RECONCILIATION”
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It’s possible to reject a deep relationship with the Holy Spirit

- By returning to our sin because we fail to understand deeply:
 - As Christians in our spirit we bear His image,
 - As Christians the Spirit of God dwells within us
 - As Christians we are Beloved at the core.
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Often in Christian environments the teaching of sin is simplified

- A quick “will you forgive me” is sought after.
 - This makes it more likely to return to the same sin later
 - This allows the cords of sin to remain attached.
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Without the deeper understanding of our sin:

- The sorrow and the pain it causes,
- And the separation it daily causes with God
- Easy to slip into a posture of potential rejecting the Holy Spirit

Repentance is NOT a quick "please forgive me" when we break the relationship just so that we can get back in the relationship and move on to other things on our mind.

True repentance, which begins in the heart, is authentically seeing, knowing, and turning from that which darkens my relationship with the Lover of my soul.

An "easy" treatment of sin simply leads to survival,

- A deeper internalizing of the pain of sin leads to true repentance
 - And true repentance leads to RECONCILIATION.
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There is too much "survival mentality" in the Body of Christ

- "Fire insurance" for when I die
 - Trying to get my needs met –*living in the house as a servant*
 - No deep relationship with the Father - No embrace
 - No abundant life with the Father as sons and daughters.
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The prodigal son returned to the Father for survival,

- Not for a thriving relationship of REMAINING with the Father
 - He came home just to live on the estate.
 - Happy to be a hired man- an employee of the father
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The son didn't understand that with true reconciliation

- He was fully restored as a son.
 - Restoration brought about by reconciliation.
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We desire our relationship and identify restored,

- But just until the wave of the pain passes.
 - Then we desire our inheritance to once again do as we will.
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In a sense we want that reconciliation until the pain has past

- We then seek our own convenience, comfort, self-centered way
 - As we reject the full relationship with the Father.
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It is not enough to be a slave in the same house of the Father.

- Our Heavenly Father wants FULL RESTORATION
- And FULL RECONCILIATION as sons and daughters.
- Being fully restored to what God intended for each of us

Luke 15: v.20 while the son was a great way off the Father RAN

- And kissed his son's neck: **BEFORE THE SPEECH!**
 - Compassion- The father wanted to be reconciled with the son
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Luke 15: v.21 the son has a speech prepared,

- He wanted to be treated not as a son, Not as a slave
 - But as an employee of his father.
 - Sons and slaves lived at home, employees came and went
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The Father turned to the servant during the son's speech

- Tells the servants to get physical evidence of this reconciliation.
 - My son is home! Get the robe! Get the ring! Get the sandals!
 - Kill the fattened calf!
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- The **ROBE** meant restoration of position!
- The **RING** meant restoration of authority!
- The **SANDALS** meant restoration of dominion!

By putting shoes on the son, meant that the son could walk around his father's estate. Shoes were exchanged in the cutting of covenants.

By putting on these items on the son the father was saying;

- Slave? **NEVER!** Employee? **NEVER!**
 - You're my **SON**, and everything I have is yours.
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READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-6:2

V. 17 A New creation: new = "freshness"

- It doesn't mean you will go from 5 foot tall to 6 foot tall
 - If you are 300# before salvation, after you probably still be 300 #
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Some physical things might change

- Demons possessed man "Sitting in his right mind" (Mark 5)
 - My eyes changed color
 - Story of woman's salvation; "*What happened to you?*"
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BUT, we are new creations whether we feel like it or not

- Our minds are changed:
 - Instead of trying to get out of every situation
 - You try to get something out of every situation

BUT, Tom, I don't feel anything different:

- **ILLUSTRATION: I now pronounce you....**
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We are changed in God's eyes

- He sees us as the new child
 - He sees us as **FULLY RECONCILLED**
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God sees us through the eyes of covenant

- That is why the ring, robe, shoes, etc. were important
 - So the son would know that he was once again restored
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We are changed into something different:

- **ILLUSTRATION: MAKING A RING FROM A ½ DOLLAR**
 - **POWERPOINT SLIDES**
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V. 18 We are Reconnected, Reconciled and Redeemed

- The Father had already paid it all
 - We become reconciled through Jesus Christ **ALONE!**
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V. 19 GOD HIMSELF DID THE WORK-paid for it all!

Definitions:

“IMPUTING” GREEK: *logizomai* (pronounced: *log-id'-zom-ahee*) Middle voice from [G3056](#); **to take an inventory**, that is, estimate (literally or figuratively): - conclude, (ac-) count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).

“TRESPASSES” GREEK: *paraptōma* (pronounced: *par-ap'-to-mah*) From [G3895](#); **(to fall aside) a side slip** (lapse or deviation), that is, **(unintentional) error or (wilful) transgression**: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass. **A false step, a blunder**

“RECONCILIATION”: GREEK: *katallagē* (pronounced: *kat-al-lag-ay'*) From [G2644](#); **exchange (figuratively adjustment), that is, restoration to (the divine) favor: - atonement, reconciliation (-ing)**.

In the world of Finance it means: to check (a financial account) against another for accuracy

God checked the books; JESUS PAID IT ALL TO COVER OUR DEBT!

V. 20 GOD WANTS TO INCLUDES US IN THE WORK

- The verse starts with “Therefore”
 - Because He has reconciled us through Jesus Christ

“AMBASSADOR”: GREEK: *presbeuō* (pronounced: pres-byoo'-o)

From the base of [G4245](#); to be a senior, that is, (by implication) **act as a representative (figuratively preacher): - be an ambassador.**

ENGLISH: A diplomatic official of the highest rank appointed and accredited as a representative in residence by one government or sovereign to another; usually for a specific length of time. An authorized messenger or representative.

Jesus said; “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” (John 15:16)

SO, HOW DO WE RESPOND?

- Tomorrow is Monday Morning and I go to a real Job
- What do I do with this message of reconciliation?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW JESUS

- The Father wants you to be reconciled TODAY
- Restored to what God had originally intended for you
- Through receiving the work done on the cross by Jesus

The Bible says:

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.” (Rom 10:9 -13)

THAT’S RECONCILIATION!

IF YOU ALREADY KNOW JESUS:

2 Cor 5 V 18 has given us the MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

- The word for ministry is “servant” or “table waiter”
- That is EACH of our calling
- That is EACH of our responsibility
- To go into our world and serve Jesus

V.19 has committed to us THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION.

- The word for word is “logos” or “something said”
- In other words we are called to TALK about Jesus
- How do people know that you are a Christian?
- They can't see your heart.

The Bible says:

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!" (Rom 10:14 -15)

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ,

- Then the Holy Spirit has been placed in your life.
- And He will make himself known to you,
- Working in you and through you.

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- God is NOT going to give up on us
 - YOU WON'T RELENT (Seal)" *Misty Edwards (lyrics next page)*

LET'S PRAY

BENEDICTION:

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“YOU WON’T RELENT (Seal)” *Misty Edwards*

You won't relent until You have it all
My heart is Yours

I'll set You as a seal upon my heart
As a seal upon my arm
For there is love that is as strong as death
Jealousy demanding as the grave
Many waters cannot quench this love

Come be the fire inside of me
Come be the flame upon my heart
come be the fire inside of me
Until You and I are one

“From Inside Out” *Hillsong*

A thousand times I've failed
Still your mercy remains
And should I stumble again
Still I'm caught in your grace

Everlasting, Your light will shine when all else fades
Never ending, Your glory goes beyond all fame
my heart and my soul, Lord I give you control
Consume me from the inside out Lord
Let justice and praise become my embrace
To love You from the inside out

Your will above all else, my purpose remains
The art of losing myself in bringing you praise

Everlasting, Your light will shine when all else fades
Never ending, Your glory goes beyond all fame
In my heart, in my soul, Lord I give you control
Consume me from the inside out Lord
Let justice and praise become my embrace
To love You from the inside out

Chorus 2x

Everlasting, Your light will shine when all else fades
Never ending, Your glory goes beyond all fame
And the cry of my heart is to bring You praise
From the inside out Lord, my soul cries out