

The God Who Restores

Scripture: Joel 2:12-14, 23-26

Introduction

Many people look on God as being the One who punishes and takes joy from us. But God is a God who does not delight in punishing iniquity, but rather in giving grace, and restoring the repentant ones to fellowship.

I. The conditions of restoration

Joel 2:12-14 Therefore also now, saith the Lord, Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and weeping, and mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?

- A. A whole-hearted return to God
- B. An attitude of repentance
 - 1. Humility
 - 2. Godly sorrow
 - 3. Self denial
- C. God's attitude toward the repentant sinner

II. The magnitude of restoration

Joel 2:23-26a Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore unto you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied....

- A. God will provide a means for you to prosper
- B. God will restore the losses resulting from His discipline
- C. God will satisfy us

III. The joy of restoration

Joel 2:26b ...and praise the name of the Lord your God dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

- A. A constant attitude of praise
- B. Never again to know shame