

"A Word For the People of America: Repent"

January 8, 2017



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Psalm 46:1-3, 2 Chronicles 7:11-14, 2 Chronicles 7:15, Psalm 4:23, 2 Timothy 3:2-5, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

DAY 1

In his message for this week, Pastor Bob described the growth of the great Sequoia. This behemoth towers over all other trees. He pointed out the reason why some began to die was they encountered "foot traffic" which disturbed their roots and caused them to fall to the ground. The park rangers erected barriers or fences around them to reduce the foot traffic of tourists to ensure the tree's roots could not be harmed.

All of us face challenges every day. List what your challenges are as of late. The question becomes, "What steps are you taking to safeguard your spiritual roots so that when difficulties come your foundation doesn't crumble?"

[Read Psalm 46:1-3.](#)

- How is God your refuge and strength?
- When trouble comes your way, what is the first thing you do? What would be different if you first turned to God when you were in trouble and in need of help? How might your situation look different?

DAY 2

Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-14.

- Repentance is a key part of our faith journey. When we confess our sin and turn back to God we are changed. Journal or think about a time when you experienced God's forgiveness. What was going on? What was different after your confession?
- God is always ready to lead us into a time of restoration, but the Bible is clear, we are required to make the first move. Why doesn't God just forgive us our sin instead of making us name it, claim it and give it up?

DAY 3

Read 2 Chronicles 7:15.

- The text says God's "eyes" and "heart" are connected to the Temple (your soul). Do you feel that God knows everything you do?
- The eyes and heart of God symbolize his concerned watch over you. What does this say about God's character and his care for humanity?
- It is clear that God wants you to know, even though he sees your sin, there is a way out of your sinful nature. Why do you think God said to Solomon he sees people in distress and has a compassionate heart for the plight of his people?
- Share a time when God intervened in your life and you got back on track.

DAY 4

Read Proverbs 4:23.

- What does it mean to "guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life?"
- Pastor Bob pointed out the last presidential election made many hearts heavy. Some transferred this into anger while others used it as a way to mock those who voted for the other candidate. What should the

- followers of Jesus do in this instance? How have you been acting in this regard?
- Regardless of who you voted for, what can you do from today forward to share words of affirmation towards others instead of ridiculing them for the choice they made?

DAY 5

Read 2 Timothy 3:2-5; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Repentance is an important emphasis of our spiritual birth. It is part of our spiritual pilgrimage, a way of protecting the roots that surround our heart. Paul compares this spiritual pilgrimage of the Christian life to that of a soldier on a mission, who refuses to entangle himself in civilian affairs.

- What do you learn about yourself in Paul's words in the 2 Timothy 3:2-5 passage?
- If repentance is the only means which frees us from the behaviors listed by Paul, why are people of faith so afraid to repent?
- What is something good that can come from repentance?
- Solomon built a physical temple in which God was to reside. Jesus said the Holy Spirit has made you His temple. When you act out against someone else, what kind of temple are you providing? When others know you are a believer, what do they see in your actions?

DAY 6

Pastor Bob pointed out the act of repentance has four stages: ***Humbling, Praying, Seeking and Turning.***

- What does it mean to humble yourself? What does the act of humbling look like?
- Why is pride so important to us?
- To pray as an act of repentance means to shamelessly acknowledge your personal sin and need for God's mercy. What does that mean to you? Does your prayer life include acts of repentance?

- The third stage of repentance is seeking. What does it mean to seek God through repentance knowing He and He alone is the only possible hope for deliverance?
- If sin is defined as "missing the mark" then one who wishes to repent must turn away from sin and towards God. Why do you find it hard to stay on God's path? What happens when you change direction away from sin and move towards God's path of holiness?

What do you need to repent? Take time now to follow the four steps and ask God to lead you into a new direction of forgiveness and restoration.

DAY 7

Today is your "Sabbath" and a time for reflection. How has God been speaking to you over the week? Use what the Lord has said to you to remold and reshape your life. If you are having trouble hearing God's voice, slow down or even stop what you are doing so that the busyness of life's demands do not squelch the whispers of God's language of love upon your heart.



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