

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

RESTORATION

5

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on the priority of the restoration of the wayward.

Copyright © 2018. 2023. Paul J. Baumeister, Ph.D.

The author reserves all rights to this text. No part shall be downloaded or stored in a retrieval system other than as required for browsing. It may not be reproduced, printed or copied without written permission from the author.

Published by Paul Baumeister, P.O. Box 2366, Elk Grove, California 95759.

Printed in the United States of America.



City of ^{the} Living God



“And return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you”(Deut. 30:2-3).

From the very beginning of human history, God has shown his compassion and love to fallen mankind. He has been quick to forgive and heal the brokenhearted. He knows our short comings and sins and yet he still loved us before we loved him (1 Jn. 4:19). In this Bible study we address the teachings within the Scriptures that show us God's path for those that have fallen and have decided to return to his Way.

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY

Isaiah 54:10

“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you” (ESV).

Psalms 116:5

“Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful.”

Psalms 145:8-9

“The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.”

Isaiah 43:25

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”

RECONCILIATION

God’s first act after Adam and Eve’s fall was one of reconciliation.

In the garden, we see God’s ideal relationship with man. Adam and Eve enjoyed an intimate friendship with God. Not only did Adam and Eve cherish that relationship, God also treasured it. We were made to live in God’s continual presence, but after the Fall of man and woman, that relationship was severed. After their judgment, God immediately began an act of reconciliation: the shedding of blood by providing them with skins of an animal.

Genesis 3:21

“Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”

PLAN FOR RESTORATION

Matthew 1:21,23

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

John 1:29

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Colossians 1:13-14

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

GOD CHERISHES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

Matthew 23:37

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

1 John 4:19

“We love Him because He first loved us.”

GOD DOES NOT WANT TO SEVER OUR RELATIONSHIP

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Luke 19:9

“...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Matthew 15:22-24

“And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Psalms 103:17-18

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”

Isaiah 49:15

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.”

RESTORATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PRIORITY

While God came to earth in order to save all mankind, his first priority was to restore the relationship he had with the Jews. It was not because the Jewish race was special in itself; it was because God does not like the parting of relationships.

God’s priority has always been to save that which is lost or fallen. If prodigals would know that they are at the top of God’s priorities to restore, many would return.

Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Matthew 10:5-6

These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

RESTORATION TO THOSE THAT GO “ASTRAY”

Matthew 18:13-15

“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over

the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”

RESTORATION TO THOSE THAT ARE “LOST”

Luke 15:8-9

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’”

RESTORATION TO THOSE THAT GO “FAR AWAY

Luke 15:12-24

“And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no

more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry “

We note that God restores those that are very far away from God. He is not only compassionate and forgiving, but he is waiting as the father in this parable waited every day for his child to return home.

We also see that the restoration was complete. The son did not feel worthy to be restored completely, but the Father gave him three things that let him know it was a complete restoration:

1. **The Finest Robe** – the robe signified honor and love as the restored son. Notice it was the “finest.”
2. **The Signet Ring** – the ring was a ring of authority. They would use the signet ring for impressing a seal upon wax or clay documents. It symbolized restored authority.
3. **New Shoes** – the shoes represented ownership. In near eastern culture shoes were exchanged when purchasing land, because the owner’s shoes were worn and used to walk all over their land (Deut. 25:9-10).

In all the parables of restoration in Luke 15, it is followed with a celebratory party for the restored.

RESTORATION AND HEALING

Psalms 51:1-3,7

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me ..Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Are you ready to come home?

Let's pray.

For more Information

Paul Baumeister

P.O. 2366, Elk Grove, CA 95759

[Click here to access the
complete series](#)