

Return
Joel 2:12-14
Sermon Series: “Reset”

Introduction:

Repentance is turning to God. It is a change of mind that leads to a change of heart that leads to a change of action.

Repentance is a gracious gift of God.

Richard Patterson writes, “A locust plague without parallel had descended on Judah, ruining all the crops. Not only was the basic economy of the country disrupted, but all levels of society were deeply affected. Worst of all, the agricultural loss threatened the continuance of the sacrificial offerings, the central feature of the religious ceremony.

In these catastrophic circumstances Joel saw the judgment of God on Judah. Although God had abundantly blessed the Judah of Uzziah’s day, the people had taken God and his blessings for granted. Faith had degenerated into an empty formalism and their lives into moral decadence. Under divine inspiration Joel told the people that the locust plague was a warning of a greater judgment that was imminent unless they repented and returned to full fellowship with God. If they did, God would abundantly pardon them, restore the health of the land, and give them again the elements needed to offer the sacrifices. The ceremonial system was designed to express a heart relationship with God. By their sin they had forfeited any right to religious ceremony. What was needed was a repentant heart that would allow ceremony and spiritual condition to coincide.”

**1. The Need For Repentance: Our sin, apathy, and backsliding
(1:13-15, 2:11) [Galatians 6:7-8]**

-Apply to Christians and non-Christians

-Why does God judge sin?

His nature - He is holy.

His role - He is judge

His love - He wants what is best for us.

2. The Nature Of Repentance: Returning to God, Sincere, from the heart, brokenness, individual and corporate (2:12-13, 15-17).

-Matthew 5:4, 2 Corinthians 7:10, Hebrews 12:16-17

3. The Basis of Repentance: The heart of God (2:13).

-Genesis 3 and Luke 15

4. God's Response To Genuine Repentance:

A. Restoration and blessing (2:14, 18-19, 25-27)

B. Salvation (2:28-32, Acts 2:14-24, 37-38)

Conclusion-Response:

1. Call Christians to confession, repentance, and surrender. Return to God.

2. Call people to repent and believe the gospel.

3. Call them to baptism.

4. Come forward to pray and/or talk to someone.

5. Text, online, and decision cards

-Obey what the Holy Spirit tells you to do.