



RESTORATION

Restoration begins with repentance.

Practically the entire country is asking how we can restore the prosperity of our nation. Our government leaders have surrounded themselves with extremely smart people, offering plans for everything from toxic debt to ludicrous bonuses. But is that really the problem? Or is the problem more fundamental? In this study we discover the problem is sin...and the solution begins with repentance.

Discussion Questions

Read Joel 2:12-17.

1. In v. 12 God encourages Israel to “turn to Me now...while there is still time.” Why is time of the essence? What did Israel need to turn from? Why would they wait? If there was something you needed to turn from, why would you wait? Discuss **Hosea 14:11**.
2. Based upon v. 12, what did God want? According to **Deuteronomy 4:29**, who finds God?
3. According to v. 12, what should be our attitude towards sin? How do you feel about sin? Do you feel you take it as sincerely as God does? What does it mean to “tear your heart” over sin?
4. One compelling reason to repent (i.e. turn towards God) is that He loves you. What six things do you see about God in v. 13-14?
5. Do you believe God can change His mind? In v. 14 Joel holds out the hope that perhaps God would change His mind if Israel repented. Check **Exodus 32:7-14**. Did God change His mind there? Why?
6. Is repentance strictly an individual act, or do we need to repent as a nation as well? How about as a church? Or as a family? Re-read v. 15-16. What does repentance look like there?
7. What does restoration look like? Discuss **Joel 2:25** and **2 Chronicles 7:14**.