

## **Restoration**

### **2Corinthians 2:1-8**

I like buy things & restore them, get good deals, broken & repair. Bikes police auction, dryer w/ dent Sears distribution, 650 BSA, VW van, Surfboards. I like see old things restored & made valuable again. So God made me a pastor who was broken, throw away people restored.

**Ps 80:7** O God of Hosts, restore us and cause your face to shine upon us and we will be saved. **Ps 19:7** The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.

God's work is **redemptive**—to bring a life back to Gods original intent & worth. Church is to facilitate God's purposes to heal & make whole.

**Problem**: God's plan can be frustrated by church not following His direction. Doc gives remedy for relief of patients' problem but directions ignored or...

American Medical News reported—a patient complained of an earache, his right ear. His doctor prescribed ear drops, an antibiotic, for the earache. When the patient got the ear drops prescription filled the pharmacist wrote on the bottle three drops in r for right ear. No space and no punctuation. For 'right ear' the instructions on the bottle read: r-e-a-r. That spells rear. The patient said later he thought it sounded like a strange remedy for an earache but he had dutifully applied the three drops to his rear for three days before the error was discovered.

Obedience challenges the will. King Saul... **1Sam 15:22,23** *And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings & sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."* Churches of Revelation

God's first work in our life is **restoring** us back to Himself & it begins w/ repentance-turning from sin, to God. Jesus ministry began w/ **repent** and **believe** Mk 1:15

A battle soon begins--the spirit & flesh war against each other. **Gal 5:17** *For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another so that you may not do the things that you please. James 4:5* *God jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us. Lit* ardently yearns after, intensely craving to possess

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Before being born again we had no conflict *'eat, drink, be merry...'* we did what we wanted, what came natural...**Sin**. Now w/ Jesus as Lord a conflict arises. Indian believer—white/black dog. Paul's struggle **Rom 7:14** *For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. <sup>15</sup> For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.*

**1Cor 9:27** *but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

Discipline **hupopiazō** – beat black & blue, boxer hitting himself giving black eye--to disable the flesh--beat passions into submission--keep under spirit.

**Gal 5:24**...*they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh w/ the affections & lusts*

What happens when a person gives into the flesh & **practices** sin as a lifestyle in the church. *'No one who is born of God practices sin because His seed abides in him & he cannot sin because he is born of God'* **1Jn 3:9**

To draw a line & to step over is to sin--to step over willfully & continually is to **practice** sin. But to unintentionally, accidentally step over because of human weakness God provides a way back by confession & repentance.

1Cor 5 Paul dealt w/ willful practice of sin—incest—a man w/ father's wife or step mother—immoral relations not even pagans practiced—**open blatant sin**

Arrogant attitude w/ him & leaders & church goes. No one speaking out or taking action. Paul's answer: **discipline by excommunication**--to bring to repentance. **Turn over to Satan for destruction of flesh..**

Loose spiritual-turnover carnal....**the backslider in heart will get his fill of his ways**. It was when no one gave anything to **Prodigal** that he came to his senses. Alone w/ my sin allows God to work on my heart-bring repentance

It worked yet Paul was hurting because it hurt them--his harsh dealings w/ sin had alienated many of them from him so he writes

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*1 But I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again. 2 For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful? 3 And this is the very thing I wrote you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy would be the joy of you all.*

Here is how Paul felt about the church...*my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown Phil 4:1 Empathy Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not burn with grief? 2cor 11:9*

*4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not that you should be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you. 5 But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree—in order not to say too much—to all of you.*

Real sorrow in the church came from the one sinning & nothing was being done until Paul got involved. Put fault where fault is do. I love you & only do right by you.

*6 Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, 7 so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.*

Paul encourages church to bring the man back into fellowship. But by what criteria? At what point is repentance legitimate & ready to bring back?

Willful sin brings sorrow to church :5 like divorce--knife in heart of believers

**Punishment** :6 resulted in right outcome. Godly sorrow for deeds done :7 Note not all in agreement w/ extreme measure used-kicking out :6 majority

A healthy body is able to fight off disease, to rid itself of toxic poisons in the system that would otherwise destroy health.

So too a healthy church when the word is heard & heeded-it disciplines believers---sometimes **face to face** discipline w/ unruly--to point of putting out until repentance comes.

Church today has a compromised immune system in dealing w/ sinful behavior---same as **vaccines do to body**. Not fight off infection or sin.

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*Warren Wiersbe "what the church needs today is a new awareness of Christ & His glory. We need to see Him high & lifted up; there is a dangerous absence of awe and worship in our assemblies today."*

We need to **go higher** in our relationship w/ the Lord as Isaiah did.....

**Isaiah 6:1** *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2....the seraphims...cried Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

**Sin dies as we go high**.....a pilot was flying his small plane when he heard a noise which he recognized as the gnawing of a rat. Wondering what its sharp teeth were cutting thru, he suddenly realized w/ horror that it might be electrical wires to interment panel. Then he remembered that rodents can't survive at high altitudes. Immediately he began climbing until finally he had to put on his oxygen mask. Soon the gnawing stopped and when he landed he found the rat dead...**sin dies as we go high w/ the Lord**

UH prof writing book on Gays & Church. 'My worldview is God centered. W/ others its man centered. I approach homosexuality & same sex marriage from a biblical point of view. Asked **what about clergy on other side**. My first question **'who is Jesus Christ?'** If there is a **faulty** view of Christ there will be a **faulty** moral views. Woman caught adultery **'neither do I condemn you, go & sin no more'**. Faulty view say to the Homosexual **'neither do I condemn you go and sin some more'** **Job 13:4** **But you smear w/ lies; you are all worthless physicians.'** Jesus the Great Physician who changes our behavior by changing our hearts and minds by His word & Holy Spirit.

**Is 59:1-2** Increasingly unpopular to point out sin yet more than ever it is necessary. **Pr 24:11** **Deliver those who are being taken away to death, and those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back.**

The man in Corinth living incestuous relationship was dealt tough love, kicked out..turned over to Satan for destruction of flesh...it worked

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He repented, now bring him back into fellowship. Forgive, comfort & reaffirm...What God requires of His church.

**Forgive**—idea of freedom--same root as to rejoice. Free-flow of grace to forgive w/o making them work for it. Giving joy or pleasure, outward beauty – kindness bestowed

**Comfort**—come along side to strengthen, help. *He is the God of all comfort*

If not can be swallowed by grief--drown in sorrow -- *Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

**Reaffirm**—Judicial resolution to treat the offender w/ brotherly love. Give strong expression, assurances of love for him. Leave no room for doubt.