

IV. JESUS RESTORES US AS WE ABIDE IN HIM

The purpose and mission of Jesus Christ was to redeem us from the slavery of sin and its effects on our lives. His purpose was to restore us to a right standing with God, fellowship with God, and a full life free from the bondage of sin and the penalty of death. In short, Jesus came to restore or put back together our broken life into a full and complete relationship with God. If we put Jesus in our hearts then on the flip-side our life gets put back together or restored...

Illustration:

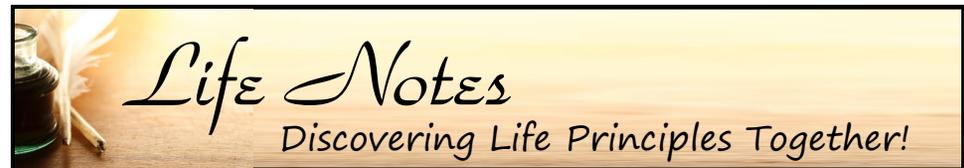
There was a man who wanted to take his Sunday afternoon nap but the only problem was that his little boy wanted to play. To resolve this issue, his dad looked in the newspaper and found a picture of a world globe. He cut the picture out and tore it up into little pieces. He then told his boy that he wanted to play a game with him. He said, "son, this picture I just tore up is a puzzle, and I want you to put it back together." Dad thought it would take him about an hour and he could take his nap. About 15 minutes later the boy woke up dad and said, "I put the picture back together, I'm done!" Dad said, "How did you do that so quickly." The boy said, "I remembered that there was a picture of a man on the back, so I flipped the torn pieces over and I just put the man back together and when I did, the whole world came together."

The word **RESTORE** (Strong's G2675) means to repair or adjust: - fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect, join together), prepare, restore.

Jesus will repair us from all the sin, hurts, and destructions of this life. As we learn to abide in Him (Jesus) and as He abides in us, we gain restoration and true freedom from all those things which held us captive. In John 15:4-5, Jesus tells us that unless we abide in Him and that He abides in us then we can not produce a fruitful and full life.

We may suffer in life but Jesus will repair us, perfect us, and complete us... **1 Peter 5:10 (ISV)** *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you in Christ Jesus to his eternal glory, will restore you, establish you, strengthen you, and support you.*

Are there areas in your life that need restoring? Do you need Jesus in your life? Let's pray together for our restoration to God.



PATH TO FREEDOM SERIES, PART 1 - JESUS RESTORES!

Ice Breaker: Can any one tell me the make and year of the car seen below? If you could buy a new car what would you buy and why?

Starter Discussion:



When we begin our lives, we are very much like a new car that is just off the show room floor. However, over time, life has a way of bringing dents, dings, and rust into our lives.

Life can literally wear us out and we wind up looking like this very worn out car... How does life tend to wear us out?



Foundation Scriptures:

Luke 4:18-19 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (19) To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

John 15:4-5 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

I. EVERYONE NEEDS RESTORATION

Life has given all of us some scratches, bruises, and pain. Sin has separated us from God and have brought the evils of this world upon us. Everyone has been through situations that have brought emotional pain. We all share the same common need for spiritual, physical, and emotional freedom.

Most people have habits they would like to say goodbye to. Hang-ups, hurts, and negative habits make us like that old rusted out car. Mankind started out in mint condition but disobedience to God has introduced sin and death to the world. Now, mankind is broken, rusted, and in need of restoration... this is really the main purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ... to restore broken mankind back into a full, complete, and loving relationship to God.

II. THE GOSPEL IS REALLY ABOUT RESTORATION

In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus speaks of His ministry purpose. What things do you notice about His purpose statement? Is it just about a gospel of soul-salvation or does there seem to be more to His purpose?

Some important things to note in the "Purpose Statement" of Jesus...

- ◆ He was sent... The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him and anointing Him.
- ◆ Sent to preach the gospel to the poor
- ◆ Sent to heal the broken-hearted
- ◆ Sent to preach deliverance to those who were captives.
- ◆ Sent to recovering sight to the blind
- ◆ Sent to set those at liberty bruised
- ◆ Sent to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

REFLECTION:

What do you suppose is meant by some of these terms used in Luke 4:18-19? Do these terms have deeper meanings? Let's reflect together.

Gospel to the poor _____

Heal the broken-hearted _____

Deliverance to captives _____

Recovering sight to the blind _____

Set at liberty the bruised _____

Acceptable year of the Lord _____

III. JESUS WANTS TO RESTORE US

Many in this life have become captive to sins, habits, hang-ups, and hurts. The good news is that Jesus has come to rescue and restore us from all these things. In John 10:10, we see that the thief (someone or something that takes what is not his) comes to do three things...

What are those three things:

S _____, K _____, and D _____.

But, Jesus comes to give L _____ and life more A _____.

Anything that steals, kills, or destroys in our life is a thief. What are some of those things which have people captive? Here a small list:

- ◆ Overworking
- ◆ Overspending
- ◆ Anger and rage
- ◆ Insecurities
- ◆ The need to control (obsessive perfectionism)
- ◆ Procrastination
- ◆ Overeating
- ◆ Under eating, (bulimia, anorexia)
- ◆ Fear, grief, and anxiety
- ◆ Hypochondria, (which is the persistent conviction that one is or is likely to become ill, often involving symptoms when illness is neither present nor likely)
- ◆ Sexual addictions
- ◆ Hurtful relationships
- ◆ Alcohol, Drugs
- ◆ Guilt, divorce, gambling, abuse,

But, in all this... Jesus wants to, first of all, give us new life! Secondly, He wants our new life to be an abundant life! God has good intentions for us and has our freedom and future in mind! (see Jeremiah 29:11)