

REStore: All Things New

July 25, 2021 Acts 3:19-21

OPENING QUESTION

Do you watch those tv shows about renovating old houses? Why don't they just tear it all down and start over from scratch? Will God just tear down His creation and start over, or will He renew and redeem what He has already created?

GOD'S HEART HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT RESTORATION - Acts 3:19-21

- God will restore His creation, including us, to His intended original state (Romans 8:19-25)
- Revelation: to reveal His glory through creation
- Restoration: restore creation to reveal His glory
- "But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells." - 2 Peter 3:13
- God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham, Moses, David, and us, to be our God, and we will always be His people.
- Our relationships are often based on what we lack; God's relationships are based on abundance.

Does it give you hope to know that God will restore us and all creation to their original state and purpose? When you stray from God, do you ask forgiveness and allow God to restore you?

GOD'S HEART HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO DWELL WITH US - Jeremiah 30:22; John 1:14

- He is our God and we are His people.
- Immanuel - "God with us."
- Jesus dwelled with us on earth, and now He dwells within us - we are His temple.
- We are made in God's image - we share in His love, His purpose and plan, His family, and much more.
- But we still long to dwell with God in a more full way... We long for the dwelling place of God heaven, and the dwelling place of humanity in heaven and earth to be one.

Are you amazed that God wants to dwell with us, and make a way through Jesus for us to be God's temple? Do you live each day as if you are the dwelling place of God? What does it mean to you to say that we are made in the image of God?

THE PRESENCE OF GOD MEANS THE ABSENCE OF DEFEAT Revelation 7:17; 21:4

- "For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
- "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
- We are victorious, because Jesus is victorious.

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. How do these verses connect us to the victory Jesus has over sin and death? Does having victory in Christ mean we shouldn't be suffering in this life? Why or why not?



CLOSING QUESTIONS

Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

Obey

Is God continually restoring you? Has He shown you that He wants to show you His truths which are new every morning? What truths can be applied to your life from the verses this week?

Pray

Pray that God will show you His desire to renew and restore you to an abundant relationship with Him. How does these passages provide an example for you to follow?