

The Connection Between Repentance and Rest

"In repentance and rest is your salvation" (Isaiah 30:15). Both concepts are important, and each is integrally related to the other. There is no real rest (complete dependence on God) without repentance, and there is no real repentance that does not issue in rest.

The fundamental idea behind repentance in the Old Testament is to turn around or to turn back. It is to stop going in the direction you were, namely, one of self-dependence and self-pleasing, and to turn away from that life to the one of depending on God and pleasing him. To talk about resting in the Lord while still keeping hold of one's life and its direction is a contradiction in terms. By the same token, to stop committing certain sins and to "clean up one's act" merely for the sake of avoiding punishment is not to turn back to God. It is only to turn away from sin and may be just as selfish as any other act.

John Oswalt. *NIV Application Commentary on Isaiah*. 2003.

News:

The Camelback church of Christ in Phoenix will be hosting a ladies retreat September 6-7, 2013. For more information, contact Kathy Wood (602)482-3148.

Ben and Esther will be in Tucson this morning visiting their son Maurice and picking up their granddaughter Jordan. Plans are, they will be back for this evening's services.

Please continue to pray for Tatyana's daughter Olga who is undergoing treatments for cancer.

Prayer List:

Healing: Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike and Sandy Cavazos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Douglas and Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey. **Travels:** Tatyana Knowlton, John and Sharon Cunningham, Louella Briggs.

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Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

23 June 2013

Sermon Topics

A.M.: Jesus' Example in Prayer

John 17

P.M.: Prophecy Illusions

Isaiah 30

Wednesday: Solomon's Temple
Dedication Speech

1 Kings 8:14 ff

Pulpit Evangelist
Ken Knowlton: 428-5974

Elders
Ben Atchley: 428-2246
Greg Briggs: 428-8756
John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

The Blessed Person

Miles Custis, Bible Study Magazine, May/June 2013

It's comforting to read that God will bless His people. In Psalm 1, a wisdom psalm, we find the means for that blessing as the psalmist contrasts the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked. The psalm begins by praising the person who avoids sinful ways and delights in God's law, calling such people "blessed."

In Psalm 1:1, the psalmist says there are three areas we should avoid: "counsel," "way" and "seat." What do these different areas emphasize, and why should we avoid them? What is the distinction between the wicked, the sinners, and the scoffers? What is the importance of this distinction for us today?

Instead of associating with the wicked person, the “blessed” person delights in God’s law. The word usually translated “meditate” in Psalm 1:2 literally means “to murmur” or “to read out loud.” Do you regularly read God’s Word out loud? What are some benefits of doing so? Read Joshua 1:8. What does it say is the purpose of “meditating” on God’s Word?

Psalm 1:3-4 contrasts the security of the righteous and the wicked. “Chaff” refers to the stalks of wheat that the wind would blow away during the winnowing process. How does this description fit the wicked? In what ways are the righteous compared to a tree? How does delighting in God’s law give you the stability described in Psalm 1:3 (compare Jer 17:7-8)? How do the analogies in Psalm 1:3-4 relate to God’s judgment in psalm 1:5?

The final verse of psalm asserts that the LORD “knows” the ways of the righteous and the wicked. What does it mean that God knows your ways (compare Psalm 31:7)? How does God’s knowledge of our ways relate to Jesus’ teaching about not acting to garner praise from others (Matt 6:1-18)?

Caring for People A Most Important Job

No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care. Good proverb and good practice! We are often long on knowledge and short on compassion; correct on doctrine, offensive in nature!

We would do well to remember Jesus did not die for buses, budgets, and buildings; not for carpets, cooling, and committees. He died for people.

Here are some common sense rules in working with people:

Speak to people! There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.

Smile at people! Smiling is the international language. It takes 72 muscles to frown but only 14 to smile. And it pays dividends!

Call people by name! The sweetest music to anyone’s ears is the sound of their own name. “Greet friends by name” (3 John 14) .

Be Friendly! The best way to have a friend is to be a friend. Jesus was a “friend of sinners” (Luke 7:34) .

Don’t put strings on your love! None of this, “I’ll love you if...”. Jesus loves because and in spite of.

Be genuinely interested in people! It’s easy to treat people as if they are really worth something if you remember THEY ARE!

Be considerate of the feelings of others! The Golden Rule applies: “Do unto others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31).

Be thoughtful of other’s opinions! There may be three sides to a controversy: your’s, the other fellow’s, and the right side!

Be alert and give service! The servants and the givers are the ones on the way to greatness (Matthew 20:26). Jesus came to serve (Matthew 20:28).

In our efforts to be doctrinally right, organizationally right, and ministry rich, let’s not forget that we work with people the most precious commodity in the world. Handle with care. Handle with prayer!

BULLETIN DIGEST

Quotable

You know, Lord, how I serve you, with great emotional fervor, in the limelight.

You know how eagerly I speak for You, at a women’s club.

You know how I effervesce when I promote a fellowship group.

You know my genuine enthusiasm at a Bible study.

But how would I react, I wonder if You pointed to a basin of water, and asked me to wash the calloused feet of a bent and wrinkled old woman, day after day,
month after month,
in a room where nobody saw,
and nobody knew! – Ruth Harms Calkin

Social Expectations

In the last few hours before his arrest, Jesus shares some critical words in John 17 about *social expectations*. Jesus knows his followers will have a tendency to go to one of two extremes: either they’ll try to escape the world and hide out together in a little bubble, all safe and sound and Christian; or they’ll delve headfirst into the world and its pursuits, being exactly like them. He prays for his followers to find that delicate balance between being *in* the world, yet not *of* the world.

As we build relationships with unbelievers, it’s crucial to stay connected with other believers and God, allowing his truth to cleanse us and protect us from the Enemy. It’s amazing how our speech, dress, values, and actions can start to look curiously identical to the rest of the world if we’re not careful. We lose our saltiness and our light, and we begin to blend right in. We need to embrace the people of this world but not their values and lifestyles. Ask God to help you find the perfect balance.

Resolve Devotional Bible