

Theme: The Lord is a God Who delights to restore what has been lost because of Satan, the world, and even sin.

I. Intro – Restore or Replace

- A. We live in a disposable culture
- B. Things of real value get restored – not replaced
- C. God does not replace us – He restores us

II. The Problem: Lost Fortunes

- A. The psalmist longs for salvation
 - 1. Salvation is deliverance from evil
 - 2. Salvation is restoration of the good
- B. The fortunes of people have been lost
 - 1. Restore fortunes – must have been lost!
 - 2. The good (fortunes) has been taken away
- C. The people are in captivity
 - 1. “in the returning of the captives of his people”
 - 2. The people are held captive – literally or spiritually

III. The Source of Problems: Satan, World, Sin

- A. Satan longs to destroy and enslave

- 1. John 10:10; Rev 2:10; 12:9
- 2. Both physical and spiritual destruction & enslavement

B. World opposes God and pulls us away from Him

- 1. 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4
- 2. World stirs up longings that promise freedom but enslave

C. Sin destroys and enslaves us

- 1. Others sin – 1 Cor 15:33; Romans 5:19
- 2. Our sin - John 8:34; Proverbs 5:22; Rom 6:23
- 3. Like an infectious disease spreading death

IV. The Solution: The God of Restoration

A. Salvation & restoration comes from the Lord!

- 1. Salvation comes from Zion – city of God
- 2. Restoration comes from the Lord

B. Jesus saves us from this slavery and death (Titus 3:3-7)

C. Don Wheeler testimony

V. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you see that Satan, world and sin want to destroy you?
 - 1. They promise freedom but enslave – no one sets out to be an addict!

2. They promise blessing but bring curse
 3. They promise life but give death
 4. Are we buying their lies?
- B. Do you see that God delights to restore?
1. This is His very nature!
 2. He frees captives, blesses and gives life!
 3. Are we receiving His restoration?
- C. When He restores – give Him thanks! (Ps 14:7)

The God of Restoration

Psalm 14:7

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Mourning into Dancing

Impromptu based on John 10:10

7 Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad! (NIV)

7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores His captive people, Jacob will rejoice, Israel will be glad. NASB

7 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad. KJV

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.... John 10:10a

10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10

9 The great dragon was hurled down-- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Revelation 12:9

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:4

33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Cor 15:33

19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." John 8:34

22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. Proverbs 5:22

23 For the wages of sin is death... Romans 6:23

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:3-7