

Remnant Life Church
July 26, 2020
The Only Answer for Our Nation
Pt 3
-Who are Called by My Name-
2 Chronicles 7:14

We are carefully going through a familiar verse found in **2 Chronicles 7:14** in response to the question, what is the hope for our nation?

2 Chron 7:14 – *If my people, who are called by name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and heal their land.*

This is the formula, given by God, for a people, a nation, a society to be saved, and it is what we must do today

Last Week: IF MY PEOPLE

If – the word used by God in the Bible when speaking to both kings and the people

- Something will happen on the condition that something else happens
 - It is the choice we are given in every situation and circumstance of our lives
 - We have a choice in how we respond, what we say, and what we do – always!
 - It is how God established His relationship with His people
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- God tells the new nation of Israel
 - **Ex 19:5** - *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.*
 - In teaching them about the blessings of obedience
 - **Deut 28:1-2** - *If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.*
 - In the prophet Samuel's farewell address to the nation
 - **I Sam 12:14-15** - *If you fear the LORD and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God—good! But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors.*
 - When Jesus is teaching on faith
 - **Luke 17:6** - “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

My People – The instructions given by God are not given to those who do not know Him

- They are given to us
- We must be the ones who turn from our wicked ways as a demonstration and example to those around us...
- Understanding that the turning of our nation is not dependent on us, it is in the Hands of God

- But we have a part to place just as God worked through Abraham, Moses, Noah, Joseph, David, and the 12 disciples to accomplish His work
- We are His children – His sons and daughters
 - It is not only a relationship of master and servant; although it is
 - It is not only of the potter and the clay; although it is
 - It is of a Father and His child
 - **Gal 4:4-5** - *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*
 - It is a relationship of intimacy that goes beyond our understanding yet is unshakable in its promises and truth
 - If My People...

Who are called by My Name

The work of God through His creation is predicated on us knowing who He is

- What is the name of God?
- His name is not a moniker like we use to identify someone or something
- Yes, God has many names found in the Bible, but they are ones we ascribe in an attempt to understand His nature
- God only gave His name one time in all of the Scriptures
 - In **Exodus 3** Moses is, for the first time, in the presence of God
 - God is showing Himself in the form of a burning bush
 - Moses asks who he is to say sent him to free the people
 - In other words Moses asks, what is Your name?
 - God answered, “I am who I am”
 - It is from these words that we derive the Hebrew Yahweh which is actually a phrase-word indicating an action
- God was, in effect, saying, “I want to be known as the God who is not only present but active.”
 - It is in the name Yahweh that we find the promise of the living presence of God Himself daily in our lives
 - It is an action that presents His faithful love and provision for His children
 - It is a love that redeems and restores us to a right relationship with Him and allowing us to fellowship with Him in spirit
 - It is the same fundamental promise that He first made to Abraham and all his descendants (which includes us) in **Genesis 17** when He says I will “*be your God.*”
- It is also then in the significance and power of His name that Jesus Christ came and was called Immanuel, meaning, “God with us.”
 - Note also what Jesus says to the Jewish leaders who are questioning Him in John’s account
 - He brings full circle the name of God when He says in **John 8:58** - “*Very truly I tell you,*” ... “*before Abraham was born, I am!*”
 - The name of God is given of both the Father and the Son
- His name is one of presence and action and the Name of God is synonymous with the power of God

- This is apparently something that Christians and even churches today seem to have forgotten
 - Otherwise, why are so many Christians living their lives in fear?
 - Why are so many churches caving into the pressures of society and forsaking the truth of His Word?

I want to look this morning for a few minutes at the words “*who are called by my Name*” in the light of **Exodus 34**

READ – Exodus 34:1-9

God then goes on to make a covenant with Moses giving instructions on how the people are to live and worship

This is the second time Moses has come before God on Mt. Sinai

- The first time he received the 10 commandments but smashed them in anger when he came back and found the people worshipping the golden calf of Egypt
- And the people did this after witnessing first-hand the awesome power of God
 - 10 plagues to free them from Egypt
 - The crossing of the Red Sea with the destruction of the Egyptian army
 - The pillars of cloud and fire to lead them
 - The provisions of water, manna, and quail in the desert
 - An angel of the Lord traveling with them
 - The reoccurring presence of God in the tabernacle
- Yet, what did the people do?
 - They rebelled
 - They forgot what God had done for them and complained at every hardship
 - When Moses was back on Mt. Sinai they were in desperate need of repentance
- Just as this nation is in desperate need of God’s mercy
 - Founded on the principles of the Holy Scripture
 - Now having removed God from nearly every aspect of public life
 - But more in need of the love of God than in any other time in its history

We the church must recognize, or in some cases, rediscover His distinction

- God’s words to Moses were to distinguish His name
 - It was not a word of identification
 - It was a Word of presence
 - Knowing the name of God is to understand His glory and majesty that is beyond our realm of understanding or qualification
 - And it is why, today, we can live in hope, not fear; joy, not despair; and in peace, not anxiety
- *Who are called by My Name*
 - We must proclaim His name first in our lives, our homes, and our churches
 - Everything that occurs in our lives is dependent on our knowing who He is
 - WATCH – whether a person knows who God is or is willing to acknowledge who God is, does not change who God is!

- The self-worth of so many today is built around and based on validation
 - People need to be told that they are good, of value, or worth
 - Now, there is some measure of truth and importance in that
 - But it should not be the foundation of our identity – especially for the Christian
 - God does not need our validation – He is self-validating
 - But He wants us to be in close fellowship and relationship with Him and that starts with our knowing who He is.
- In **Ex 34:5** we read that God came down in a cloud
 - God always inhabits His creation
 - He led the people through the desert, a result of their sin of unbelief, in a cloud by day
 - This was a foretelling of who Jesus would be as He came to lead us out of the desert of our sin and into the promised land of eternity with God the Father.

Why is this important?

- Because when we know His name and who we are because of God's presence in our lives, our lives will change
- Moses plead for the lives of the Hebrew nation in **Ex 34:8-9**
- But change is possible
 - IF my people – it is a choice
 - Who are called by my name – the power in the name of God through His Son, Jesus Christ to bring change to our hearts and our lives
 - It begins on the inside by the surrender of our heart and then changes our actions on the outside

Paul writes...

- **Gal 2:20** - *I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
 - To be called by God's name is to undergo a transformation
 - Christ in us changes everything about us
 - We should be unrecognizable to the world because our actions, our temperament, our words, our priorities, our emotions are all lived by faith in Jesus Christ
 - Why?
 - Because He loves you and gave Himself for you

Moses went before God to receive the law and bring back to the people how they are to live as the children of God

- The people were told, as we are today, that in order to see healing come it begins with making a choice – if
- It then is knowing that the responsibility to demonstrate God to a lost and dying world is ours – my people
- It is then recognizing the power of the name of God – who are called by my name

God's words: If my people, who are called by my name are the prelude to the four conditions and three promises He gives to a people who need to be healed