

Remnant Life Church
August 23, 2020
The Only Answer for Our Nation
Pt 6
-The Promises-
2 Chron 7:14

There are four conditions and three promises of **2 Chron 7:14** for the healing of our nation

The four conditions – Will humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways

- It begins with humbling ourselves and acknowledging our need for Him
- Pray – confessing our sin, repenting, and asking for forgiveness
- Seek His presence in all times and in all things of our lives; pursue Him
- Turn from our sinful actions; to repent means to turn and go a new way; confession is of no meaning if we refuse to change our actions

We have spent much time talking about the small word “if”

- That word establishes the fact that you have a choice
- God has given us free will to choose
 - A brief word of free will verses predestination (God has predestined all that takes place in our lives so we do not have free will – removes responsibility and accountability)
 - God is not restricted to the limited understanding of our mind
 - God’s will from the beginning to the end has been established
 - We are not capable of two things that contradict each other
 - That is the law of the natural
 - i.e. – you cannot be in two places at the same time due to the physical laws of the universe
 - God is present in all times and in all places
 - His will is perfect and complete but allows us to choose within our scope of understanding
 - Do I believe in predestination? Of course – if God does not know what is going to happen next then He is not God
 - Do I believe in free will? Of course – I have complete freedom to choose every action I commit

God told the people that IF they did these four things, then He would confirm their actions with three promises

1. He will hear us – Then I will hear from heaven
 - a. Why is that the first promise?
 - i. It reestablishes the connection that we once had with God but lost
 - ii. Sin terminated the direct line of communication between God and us
 1. **Gen 3:8** tells us that after they sinned they hid from God
 - a. God is walking through the cool of the garden
 - b. Where are you?

- c. When we read a question asked by God or Jesus it is not because they need the information
 - d. i.e. – a parent walking into a room with writing on the wall and a 4 year old with a marker in their hand
 - 2. They were in face-to-face communion with Him in the Garden
 - 3. When sin came, it severed that line – prayer was the only way we could then speak with Him
 - 4. Sacrifices were instituted as an offering to ask His forgiveness
 - iii. Sin terminates the line of communication between God and each of us
 - 1. Unrepentant sin hinders and even stops our prayers from being effective
 - 2. Satan loves for us to have our prayers weakened!
 - 3. Because an unhindered prayer is a powerful weapon against the schemes and plots of the enemy
 - a. **James 5:16** - *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*
 - b. Without the ear of God we are truly lost
 - i. Remember the prayer of David when his sin with Bathsheba was exposed
 - ii. **Psalms 51:10-11** - *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*
 - iii. David did not fear punishment, he feared losing the presence of God in His life
 - 1. He knew that without the presence of the Holy Spirit his life would be in ruins
 - c. For our prayers to be answered and effective for the kingdom of God they must first be heard
2. God will help us in two distinct ways – (first) I will forgive their sin
 - a. The forgiveness of our sins is the fruit of God’s love for us
 - b. The entirety of the Bible is love story – God’s love for His creation
 - i. In our pride, ambition, and self-centeredness we broke the perfect fellowship once given to us
 - ii. But since that first moment of sin, God has been preparing a way to bring us back to Himself
 - iii. **Gen 3:15** – *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*
 - 1. The he in this verse is the very first foretelling of the One who would have victory over the serpent (sin) – Jesus
 - 2. The strike of his heel is the crucifixion – what it would take for the victory to be won
 - iv. The OT is summarized by one statement, “He is coming”
 - v. The NT is summarized with two statements, “He is here” and then “He is coming again.”
 - c. But without the forgiveness of our sin, we have no hope of reunion with God
3. (Second) I will heal their land
 - a. This reference to land is not about acreage

- i. To heal the land of the people is not to make it fertile for growing but the agricultural analogy, used so often in the Scriptures, is appropriate
 - 1. Land that is continually worked, plowed, seeded, harvested must from time to time be allowed to “rest.”
 - 2. It is often used in the process of crop rotation
 - 3. This brings “healing” to the soil – nutrients and water replenished
 - 4. It is better able to yield bigger crops after it has rested
- ii. This is a good picture of what God when he heals the land of a people
- iii. It is not about the soil but the moral condition of the people
- iv. For the people to have their hearts healed means, they can come back into relationship with God

b. Every great nation throughout history has fallen due to the preclusion of God

c. From an article on the 8 stages of the rise and fall of a civilization

- i. From bondage to spiritual growth
 - 1. The children of Israel in 400 years of bondage
 - 2. Freed by the power of God
- ii. From spiritual growth to great courage
 - 1. This is actually where the decline begins
 - 2. From reliance on God to the reliance on self
- iii. From courage to liberty
 - 1. From the courage of the people their liberty is realized
 - 2. Establishing the roots of their society and culture
- iv. From liberty to abundance
 - 1. There is time of great growth
 - 2. With abundance comes the threat of greed and craving for power to control
- v. From abundance to complacency
 - 1. The people stop working for the good
 - 2. Taking their eyes off of the need to improve, grow, and guard themselves
- vi. From complacency to apathy
 - 1. Sin is accepted – a sign of spiritual apathy
 - 2. Things that once caused great alarm and action to correct are now ignored
- vii. From apathy to dependence
 - 1. With no longer a desire to make or keep things right we look to others to take care of us
 - 2. Personal accountability is now being removed in favor of following someone or something else
- viii. From dependence back to bondage
 - 1. When we relinquish our right to choose for ourselves and the responsibility for our own lives we are now no longer free
 - 2. We are now slaves to the few who have assumed power under the promise that their power will keep us safe

3. A paraphrase of a quote by Benjamin Franklin says – “Those who would sacrifice their freedom for security will soon find themselves with neither.”

What is most important for us to understand is this circular rise and fall begins with the removal of God

- There is no measure of truth or virtue that is the guide for decisions
- The moral compass is set aside for the good of the desired end
- The ends always justify the means

What does that mean for us?

1. Prayer
2. Exercise your responsibility to vote
 - a. In the election of 2016, it is estimated that only 40% of eligible evangelical Christians voted
 - i. US population 2020 estimated at 331,002,651
 - ii. One fourth of population identify themselves as evangelicals = 82,750,662
 - iii. If 40% voted that means 33,100,264 voted
 - iv. Leaving 49,650,398 votes of Christians uncast
 - v. The difference in the number of votes between the winner and loser for the last 6 elections (20 years) is less than that number who did not vote by half
 - b. That is an incredible failure on our part
 - c. How do I vote?
 - i. A Christian should vote differently
 - ii. Not so much by party affiliation, but by the platform presented in relation to the Bible
 - iii. What is the stand of the candidate as it relates to the teaching of God’s Word?
 - iv. You must not allow your personal feelings or the presentation style of the candidate be the determining factor
 - v. We must be smarter than that!
 - vi. You should take a few minutes and read a little bit about that person not based on what the media tells you
3. I have friends who tell me they never vote
 - a. When I ask why they always say the same thing, my one vote doesn’t matter
 - b. That is absolutely not true!
 - c. Every single vote by a Christian makes a huge difference
4. Jerry Falwell Sr. coined the phrase “moral majority”
 - a. The media claimed that the moral majority was neither
 - b. Moral? I don’t know
 - c. But we are not the majority when we sit back and do nothing

Our land can be saved, but it will take

- Humbling ourselves
- Praying (seeking forgiveness)
- Seeking His face (His presence)
- Turning from our wicked ways

He will hear our prayers, He will forgive our sins, and He will heal our land

But we have a vital responsibility in this

- We must never forget that we are the “my people” in [2 Chron 7:14](#) and we can no longer remain on the sidelines silent
- The voice of God’s people must be heard, the conditions must be met, for our land to be healed
- It begins with you and it begins with me!