

1. Since the beginning of this year, I have been sharing a word from the Lord that I believe is for everyone who will receive it.
2. This is Your year of Jubilee.
3. The word jubilee is an Old Testament word describing an event that occurred every 50 years.
4. Every 50 years several things occurred.
5. All lands that had been sold to someone else would revert back to the original owner.
6. Every house or piece of property would revert back to the original owner.
7. Every person who had sold themselves as a servant would be granted their freedom, and they could go back to the life they had before hardship came.
8. In its most basic terms, the year of jubilee was the year when everything and everyone would go back to living as God originally intended them to live.
9. It was essentially a restoration of all things new.
10. I believe for everyone who will receive the Lord's plan, his desire is to bring restoration into every area of our lives.
11. I know we are all aware that today is easter. It is the day we celebrate not only Jesus' death on the cross but his resurrection.
12. The death and resurrection of Jesus is one of, if not the most important symbol of restoration that mankind will ever know.
13. Because through the death and resurrection of Jesus, what was restored to mankind was righteousness.
14. Righteousness is a word we don't hear very often. When we do it might take on a negative meaning. Like when we think of someone as being self-righteous. In that context, righteousness means arrogance.
15. But when we are referring to our righteousness in Jesus Christ, is has nothing to do with arrogance and everything to do with right standing.
16. To say that someone is righteous is to say that their lives are free from the guilt of sin.

17. Said another way, righteousness is the state of being in right relationship with God.
18. And as far as I am concerned, there is no more important subject than our relationship with God.
19. I want to be in right relationship with God. I tend to believe that many people want to be in right relationship with God. But the reality is that very early on in the existence of mankind, our relationship with God, our right standing with God became damaged.
20. And as a result, every single person on planet earth is in need of the restoration of their relationship with God.
21. Before I move on, I want to boldly declare something that may be difficult for some to accept. God wants to be in relationship with you.
22. And nothing and no one can change God's mind on the subject. Not even our sinful behavior.
23. In the garden of Eden, God placed Adam and Eve in perfection, gave them a fairly simple command, and then sat back and watched them disobey and destroy the beautiful relationship he had offered them.
24. They ate of the forbidden fruit. And the moment they ate that fruit, they immediately became aware of their guilt and shame.
25. We know that because they sewed fig leaves together in an attempt to cover that guilt and shame.
26. What is hard to grasp is not that someone would attempt to cover up their guilt and shame. What is still sometimes hard for me to grasp is God's response to their guilt and shame.
27. God lovingly pursued them in spite of their guilt and shame.
28. **Genesis 3:8-9** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"
29. God knew exactly what they had done. God knew that they were overwhelmed with guilt and shame. And God's response was not to reject them or steer clear of them. His response was to search for them. Why?
30. Because God longs to be in relationship with us.

31. And there is no greater symbol of that love relationship than Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection. Because through Jesus death the price was paid for our guilt and shame, and through the resurrection of Jesus we are given the opportunity or restored relationship.
32. If all Jesus had done was died on the cross and not risen again there might be forgiveness, but there would be no relationship.
33. And what God wants is relationship with us. And that relationship is restored when our heavenly father us allowed to **restore righteousness**, or right standing in our lives.
34. So what we are going to do this morning is we are going to look at a picture of how that restoration occurs in our lives.
35. I am going to be speaking from a passage in 2 Corinthians chapter 5.
36. The beginning place for that restoration is that we have to accept that all of us in fact need that restoration.
- 37. 2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
38. When this life on earth is done, every single one of us is going to have to stand before God and give an account of how we have lived while on this earth. We will have to give an account of whether our actions were good or bad.
39. The question that we have to ask is, who or what will be the measure of what is considered good or bad?
40. The measure of what is good or bad is none other than the character of God. Our actions will be compared to God's righteousness.
- 41. 2 Corinthians 5:18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself...
- 42. 2 Corinthians 5:19** that God was reconciling the world to himself...
43. The word reconcile is an accounting term that means to check one account against another for accuracy.
44. If you have two accounts and you move money from one account to another, there has to be verification that both accounts show that transaction and that they both agree.

45. One day we are all going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ (enter judge).
46. This table represents the judgment seat. It's like a court room.
47. And in the court room we are not the audience, we are all waiting our turn to stand before the judge.
48. Jesus Christ our judge is going to ask the following question. **How does your life measure up to God's righteousness?**
49. He is not going to ask, how did your life measure up to your parents, or your neighbor or your co-worker.
50. The standard of righteousness is God. We are going to have to reconcile our lives with God's goodness.
51. So, if when we appear before the judge, if all we have is our own righteousness, then the verdict is not going to be good.
52. The verdict is going to be guilty.
53. If I try and stand before God on my own and tell him all the "good" things I have done, my righteousness will not stand up.
54. **Isaiah 64:6** All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
55. On my own, my righteous acts are like filthy rags and so are yours.
56. So if on that judgment day all we have to offer is our filthy rags, then the righteous judge will have no choice but to declare us guilty.
57. Guilty.
58. Guilty.
59. And the penalty for a guilty verdict is eternal punishment. (go to jail)
60. **Luke 13:27-28** but He will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS!' **28** In that place there will be weeping [in sorrow and pain] and grinding of teeth [in distress and anger] (AMP)
61. It is the ultimate loss of relationship.
62. But remember Adam and Eve in the garden. God in his love pursues relationship with us even when we don't deserve it.
63. And God in his love provided the solution to our guilty state.
64. And the solution is Jesus.
65. **2 Corinthians 5:18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...
66. **2 Corinthians 5:19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ...
67. Jesus was and is the solution to our filthy rags. The cross.

68. **2 Corinthians 5:15** And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

69. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, Jesus took our place. Jesus says to the righteous judge. Don't compare their filthiness to your righteousness, compare my goodness to your righteousness.

70. How exactly did Jesus take our place?

71. Jesus died for us. **2 Corinthians 5:14** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

72. Because Jesus died for our sin, then we have the opportunity to become dead to our sin. Meaning, when he died, it was as if our sin never happened.

73. **2 Corinthians 5:19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

74. You and I did the crime, but because of the love of Jesus, we don't have to do the time.

75. Jesus says to us through the death and resurrection, I will take your place. **2 Corinthians 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

76. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, who takes on our sin in our place, we are allowed to become more than just guilty. More than just a prisoner. We are given the gift of righteousness.

77. Our right standing with God is restored. Our relationship with God is restored.

78. **Romans 8:1-2** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

79. When we accept Jesus as our savior, the one who paid the price for our sin, who stood in our place and took on our punishment, and the result is that we are set free.

80. In the eyes of the law, it's as if our sin never happened.

81. Have you received that forgiveness and that freedom?

82. Have you accepted what Jesus did on the cross for you by dying and are you willing to receive relationship with him through his resurrection?

83. I want to offer that relationship to you right now.

84. Have you received Jesus as your savior?

85. What will be the verdict when you stand before the judgment seat?
Guilty or innocent?
86. Pray with those who respond. (fill out card and leave on pew)
87. Now that all of us have been given the opportunity to be in right relationship with God, I want us to look at the other side of the coin.
88. Because 2 Corinthians chapter 5 is not only about what Jesus has done for us, it is also about our response.
89. Let's talk to those of us who had already accepted Jesus before this morning.
90. I believe it is entirely possible for our standing with God to be hindered even though we have accepted Him as our savior.
91. Not that our salvation is in jeopardy, but rather that as followers of Jesus we might need restoration in how we view ourselves.
92. God has a view of us, and we might need to check and make sure our view of us matches God's view of us.
93. What is God's view of us?

We should no longer live for ourselves.

1. **2 Corinthians 5:15** And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.
2. When we allow Jesus to be lord of our life it produces a change of purpose. We no longer live for ourselves, but we live for the one who died for us.
3. And what does that life look like?

We see people differently.

1. **2 Corinthians 5:16** So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.
2. What does it mean to regard people from a worldly point of view?
From a worldly perspective, things or people who become damaged are seen as disposable.
3. But in the eyes of God no one is disposable.
4. God loved us enough to pursue us in our un-forgiven state, and he loves everyone else enough to pursue them in their un-forgiven state.

5. As a believer in Jesus, we are not better than an unbeliever, we just have different standing with Jesus. And that changes how we live.
6. Another view that God has of us is that...

We are all called into the ministry.

1. **2 Corinthians 5:18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
2. One of the things I regret about modern day Christianity is that we see being called into the ministry as something reserved for a select few.
3. To be fair, as I have evaluated my own part to play in this false belief, I have become convinced that I am partially to blame.
4. I can't blame anyone else until I deal with my own blame.
5. But the truth is, every single believer in Jesus has been called into the ministry.
6. Having a title is not what constitutes ministry.
7. Having a position is not what constitutes ministry.
8. Having a platform is not what constitutes ministry.
9. Having Jesus living inside of you is what constitutes ministry.
10. How can that be true? Because messages are not just delivered behind a podium.
11. **2 Corinthians 5:19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
12. Who is the us Paul is referring to? It is all of us, the same all of us who will stand before the judgment seat of Christ in verse 10.
13. All of us are carriers of the message of reconciliation. All of us have a part to play in God's mission of reconciling the whole world to himself.
14. All of us have an identity in Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:20** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.
15. Our identity is that we are representatives of the greatest kingdom ever known to man. We represent God in this world.
16. Our identity is that when the world sees us, they should be seeing a clear picture of God.
17. The worst possible spiritual position is to be lost and without God.

18. But I believe the second worst spiritual position is to love God, and yet feel so insecure about ourselves that we feel we have no value in Him.

Conclusion:

1. You do have value.
 - You have been called into the ministry.
 - You have been given a message.
 - And you have an identity in Jesus.
2. And maybe you are here today and you need your view of yourself to be restored to what God sees.
3. You need to see your right standing with God the way God sees your standing with Him.
4. Maybe you too need your relationship with Him to be renewed.
5. The other great message of Easter is that we were not just saved from something, we were saved for something.
6. You have value beyond compare.
7. Have everyone stand.
8. It should come as no surprise that we are all susceptible to believing lies about ourselves.
9. After all, our enemy is a liar and the father of all lies.
10. So, can we close this morning by kicking that liar in the teeth?
11. Thank God that you are no longer condemned guilty, but you have been declared innocent.
12. Thank Him that you are the righteousness of God.
13. Thank Him that you have value.
14. That you have a calling.
15. That you have a message.
16. That you have an identity.