

“Take Your Words With You”

Hosea 14: 4 - 7

November 10, 2010

God Has Openly Declared That Repentance Will Open The Door To Life, (vs. 1 - 9)

- Repentance Restores The Wayward Into Full Relationship With The Sovereign God, (vs. 4 - 7)
 1. Genuine repentance “heals” the wounds of apostasy, (vs. 4)
 - Only God can heal the tear of rejection, (vs. 4a); *“Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness.” “Behold, we come to you, for you are the LORD our God.” (Jeremiah 3:22)*
 - Only God can love without “keeping score,” (vs. 4b); *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—” (Ephesians 2:4-9)*
 - Only God can turn away His wrath, (vs. 4c); *“Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.” (Psalm 78:38)*
 2. Genuine repentance “waters” the growth into material fruitfulness, (vs. 5 - 6)
 - Only God can provide the living water, (vs. 5a); *“but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)*
 - a. Living water produces the promise of fruit, (vs. 5b); *“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season...” (Psalm 1:3)*
 - b. Living water produces the sustaining of fruit, (vs. 5c); *...and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1.3b)*
 - c. Living water produces the growth of fruit, (vs. 6a); *“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15:2)*
 - d. Living water produces the bounty of fruit, (vs. 6b); *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)*
 - e. Living water produces the attraction of fruit, (vs. 6c); *“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” (John 15:7-8)*

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)
 3. Genuine repentance “restores” the intimacy of our relationship with God, (vs. 7)
 - Intimacy with God is granted by a changed nature, (vs. 7a); *“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,” (Titus 3:5-7)*
 - a. We take on a nature that flourishes, (vs. 7b); *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)*
 - b. We take on a nature that displays God’s beauty, (vs. 7c); *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)*
 - c. We take on a nature that speaks mightily of God, (vs. 7d); *“For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God’s word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 2:15-17)*

- Repentance Is Not Simply A Confession But A Material Change Of Heart, (vs. 8 - 9)