

“Wholly, Holy”

(12-08-13)

Here we are as members of the human race. It would be wonderful if everything was just wonderful in our world, but unfortunately it isn't. You see, we live in a broken world. Nations fight against nations, people against people, brother against brother. Tragedy, disease and decay are the norm. It didn't start this way, everything was perfect and holy.

Just think what you read in the book of Genesis as it told about the creation of the world. The one thing our perfect God said at the end of His creation was, *“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”* And it was good! Adam and Eve were in the image of God, perfect and holy. They walked and talked with God often. It truly was paradise!

But then Satan and sin entered the world, and everything that began perfect and holy, was broken! Man lost the image of God all because they wanted to go their own way. And that's the way it's been ever since. Sin has broken everything. Couples, families and relationships have been destroyed. It seems as though there's no hope.

Open to Isaiah 11. But there is hope. That hope is wrapped up in the baby born in a manger in Bethlehem. Jesus came not just as that baby but as your Savior who took the punishment your sin deserved. In this world that's broken, Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Look at verses 6-8, *“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.”*

What had been broken in the Garden of Eden as Adam and Eve fell into sin, Jesus changes completely. What was once hostile now becomes peaceful. Does this always happen? Unfortunately, not always because of our sinful nature. We have the ability to see wrong in everyone around us, but sometimes forget to look at ourselves. It was to this situation Jesus left His heavenly throne and came to earth to save us.

When Jesus comes to earth, He is completely human. He cried. He hurt. He suffered just like we do. He got tired as He walked preaching the Good News all over His country. But He continued to preach, loved the people deeply, and healed those who were in need. As He healed, died and rose again, He showed He is completely God. He has power. Power over sin, Satan, and the power of death.

As our Savior and our Prince of Peace, Jesus will restore hope. As we focus on Him, we will find hope, His hope! Through His love and grace for us, the situations of discord we find ourselves in will be resolved. Jesus will restore righteousness.

The sin that tears us away from God has been paid for through Jesus' death and resurrection, and we're made right with Him again. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

Open to Romans 3. God sent His Son to be born in Bethlehem and to live and die on the cross that you and I might live forever. Even though we do not deserve eternal life, and we cannot earn it by what we do, we've been given it. Verses 22-24, *“the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*

You and I are saved by the work of Christ. His redemption by the grace of Christ, His undeserved love for us, His blood which atones for all of our sins. We are reminded of that today in His Word. We are reminded of that today in His Sacrament where in, with

and under the bread and wine the Lord gives us His very own body and blood as a seal of His forgiveness to us.

When He died, we died with Him. But as He rose from death, we rise with Him. Because He is holy, Jesus will restore holiness. His holiness takes us back to how we began, holy and perfect in God's eyes. D. L. Moody put it this way, *"A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine!"*

You and I, as disciples of Jesus Christ need to do what He commissioned us to do. Our role is to tell everyone around us Jesus is their Lord and Savior who came and suffered and died for their sins, and in love is continually with them guiding and leading. Our role is to show them Jesus Christ in all we say and do so they will come to know Him as their personal Savior, and see how God wants them to live as His child. When we do, the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

Look at Isaiah 11:9-10, *"They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious."* People desire restoration. Whether it's getting control over a bad habit or just going back to the way things were, people want God to restore. They want that day.

Turn to Psalm 51. That day will come. The day will come when everything will be restored. The day will come when everything will be as it was meant to be! The universe will be wholly holy again! But He has to start with us! **Look at verses 10-12**, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."*

As we turn to Jesus each day in the study of His Word and prayer, by faith, we will be restored. As we fulfill His commission and share Him with others and they are led to faith by the Holy Spirit, they will be restored. As God's people, we need to not be in the division business, but the restoration business! God wants ALL to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

That truth is that Jesus came for you! Prepare your heart for His coming! See Him as your Savior and Restorer. See Him as your Prince of Peace. See Him as the glory of God eternal. Reflect His glory everywhere!