

I. INTRO: Let's dive in.

II. Indicative VS Imperative (v.12-13)

A. Problematic when you start out with a command.

- i. When you start with LAW, it DISTORTS your view of God.

B. *Therefore* = Last week's Easter sermon.

- i. Hook: Jesus came to us so we can come to God.

III. Restoration: We are a "fixer-upper." (v.12-13)

A. *Absence*: What does your life look like when no one is looking?

B. *Own*: Stop comparing yourself to others. Worry about yourself.

C. *Salvation* = Justification + **Sanctification** + Glorification

- i. Not Justification (see 3:9) or Glorification (see 3:21).

D. *Fear and Trembling*: Phobos = phobia (NEEDED in the Church)

- i. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom... Prov.1:7
- ii. The fear of the Lord prolongs life...Prov. 10:27
- iii. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever... Ps 19:9
- iv. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life... Prov. 14:27
- v. Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love. Ps 88:18
- vi. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! Ps. 33:8
- vii. The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. Prov. 8:13

E. Luke 12:1-3, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops."

F. **RESTORATION** - *God who works*: God is doing the fixing up.

- i. NOT ALONE in this restoration project.
- ii. Which is it? God or us? It is BOTH. It is a partnership.

G. Both to *WILL* and to *WORK*

- i. God changes our desires and then our actions follow.

H. HOW do we effectively partner? ANSWER = v.14-15

IV. Rescue

A. Grumbling... Children... Blemish... Crooked and Twisted

- i. Enslaved 430yrs (God sees) > Red Sea (no graves)
- ii. 3 days no water > 1 week, no food (meat pots - Manna)
- iii. Mt. Sinai (golden calf) > sick of Manna (month of quail)
- iv. Spies (giants) > 40 yrs wilderness > Korah's Rebellion
- v. Moses's Song = He has little faith in them.

B. Deuteronomy 32:4-5, "The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of Faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He. They have dealt corruptly with Him; they are no longer His **children** because they are **blemished**; they are a **crooked and twisted generation.**"

C. Paul is saying that "Our identity is the **antithesis** of those who were rescued out of Egypt, because we have been given a **BETTER RESCUE.**"

- i. HOOK: Our Restoration is Fueled by Our Rescue
 1. Be captivated with appreciation.

V. Difficulty of Storms: *Holding fast to the Word of Life (V.16)*

- A. Matthew 7:24-27, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."
- B. John 6:68, " Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

VI. Communion: *Drink offering (v17) Community (v18)*

- A. Pleasing Aroma. No matter the context. Together in love (by this the world)