

Return to the Lord!

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Zechariah 1:1-6

Oakbrook Community Church
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God calls us to return to Him to experience blessing **1-6**

Reminder of God's wrath seems a strange way to begin

Returning to the Lord is needed:

- **because of God's just wrath against sin** **2**

God is holy & takes wrath on sinners Heb 12:29; Nahum 1:2; Rom 1:18

God is love. God does all things for His glory. Rm 11:36

God rules the universe such that it brings Him maximum glory

Col 1:15-20; Eph 1:7-12

God must act justly & judge sin because He is holy. Isa 6:3

God's provision of Gospel answers His wrath & love! 2 Cor 5:21

- **it is our response that opens God's grace** **3**

We are commanded to 'return to Me' — a personal call

To return to God we must let go of our sin, a continual process

God initiates this process Act 5:31; 11:18 - granting repentance

God provides the strength for us to plead His mercy Psalms 51:1-2

Personal return, not just law - prodigal son's return

Three Warnings **4-6**

- **Disobedient fathers didn't return to Lord** **4**

Exiles knew of father's disobedience & exile.

Look to Jeremiah 42&43 for example: Jer 42:1-3; 42:7; 43:1-2

Beware of asking God to bless your sinful desires — seek His Word Jn 14:15

- **God's patience is not forever** **5**

God is patient, but not forever — 2 Pet 3:9-10; 2 Cor 6:2

- **God's Word is true EVERY day!** **6**

God's Word stands forever - Isa 40:8

You can't ignore God's Word Gal 6:6-8

To Think About & Discuss:

- How does the concept of God's wrath strike you? Show we emphasize it more or less in evangelizing and with believers who fall into sin? Defend biblically.
- How should you respond to someone who says, "I believe in a God of love, not in a God of wrath who gets angry about sin"?
- How does God's grace relate to the principle of sowing and reaping? Can we go too far in relying on God's grace?
- Describe how repentance and the Gospel relate. Is repentance required to receive the Gospel? Does that make it a work?
- Read WSC Q87: What is repentance unto life?
ANSWER: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.
- Does WSC Q87 help with the previous question? Where does repentance come from? Acts 5:31; 11:18
- Should repentance be a regular part of a believer's walk? Why or why not? What biblical support can you give for your answers?