

Readings

Scripture

¹¹ Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house he successfully accomplished. ¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time. ¹⁷ And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules, ¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.'

¹⁹ "But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, ²⁰ then I will pluck you up from my land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. ²¹ And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?' ²² Then they will say, 'Because they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them.'"

- 2 Chronicles 7:11-22 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

The religious only repent of sins. The irreligious don't repent at all. Christians, however, repent of both their sins and of their self-righteousness...My self-view is not based on my moral achievement. In Christ I am *simul iustus et peccator* – simultaneously sinful and lost, yet accepted in Christ. I am so bad that he had to die for me, and I am so loved that he was glad to die for me. This leads me to deep humility and confidence at the same time.

- Timothy Keller, *Gospel In Life: Grace Changes Everything* (p. 15-16)

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Matthew 4:17) he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

- Martin Luther, *The Ninety Five Theses #1* (October 31, 1517)

Sermon Outline

Renewed by God through Grace
2 Chronicles 7:11-22

Our Highest Calling
Brad Anderson

God's grace renews us for worship...

Renewal follows a gospel pattern... (2 Chronicles 7:11-18)

- In relationship with God...
 - (if my people who are called by my name...)
- We turn to him in our need...
 - (humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways...)
- And receive the grace that he has for us...
 - (then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land...)
- Enabling our commitment to love...
 - (if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules...)

Renewal implies that there is much to learn about the content of love...

(2 Chronicles 7:19-22)

- Learning to love, we confess our sin...
- Learning to love, we confess our self-righteousness...
- Learning to love, we embrace a life of repentance...

How does our weekly service re-present the gospel at this point in the story? (Renewed by God through Grace)

- Prayer of Confession
- Private Confession
- Words of Encouragement
- Songs / Hymns of Renewal / Gratitude
