Sermon Notes for August 10, 2014

It’s Time to Turn to the Lord

II Chronicles 28-32

Introduction

When an individual or a nation is headed in the wrong direction, away from God, the best response is to turn around immediately.

It is called repentance. Repentance has two parts to it.

- We turn from sin.
- We turn to God.

The message of this text is it is time to turn to the Lord.

I. Don’t let your past hold you back from turning to the Lord. Chapter 28

Ahaz was the king of Judah for 16 years.

- He was one of the worst kings in the history of Judah.
- He made idols for worshiping the Baals.
- He burned sacrifices in the valley of Ben Hinnom.
- Worst of all, he burned his children as a sacrifice to the god Molech.

It is no wonder “God handed him over to the king of Aram.”

But rather than turn back to the Lord in repentance, he became more obstinate.

Then came Hezekiah.

Hezekiah chose to walk with God and he refused to let his past hold him back.

God knows your past and he can use you if you will turn to him in faith and repentance.

II. Put first things first. Chapter 29

“In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple and repaired them.”

- Hezekiah called in the priests and Levites.
- He instructed them to purify themselves and the temple.
- He made a covenant with the Lord. Verse 10
- He called the people together and they sang and worshiped the Lord. Verses 27-28
- Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced because God did it so quickly. Verse 36

The Prayer Revival of 1857-58
Jeremiah Lanphier invited businessmen to a lunch hour prayer meeting on September 23, 1857. Prayer meetings started all across the country.
People were getting right with God and putting first things first.

III. Turn to the Lord and he will turn to you. Chapter 30-32
Hezekiah sent couriers throughout Israel and Judah inviting the people to come and celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem.
The letter is recorded in chapter 30:6-9.
- Return to the Lord that he may return to you.
- Submit to the Lord.
- Come to the sanctuary.
- Serve the Lord.

God heard their prayer. Verse 27
- He blessed them.
- He protected them.

God answers when we pray.

What did God do in response to the prayers of his people in 1857?
- The revival spread from Maine to California.
- There were prayer gatherings in cities across the country.
- In Chicago, D. L. Moody started a Sunday School class and invited kids off the street.
- Even in Appleton, Wisconsin, the local newspaper carried this article.

“The ‘Grand Revival’ is becoming a universal thing throughout the Union. All our exchanges from those ponderous city dailies down to the smallest of country weeklies, fill their columns to overflowing with accounts of ‘revivals’, ‘business men’s meetings’, ‘protracted meetings’, etc., which feature we are glad to behold in all of them. The excitement has spread from city to city, and from village to village; and we hope it may continue to spread from place to place, and from country to country, until the whole world is following in ‘the narrow path’. Let the work go on.”

In the year that followed, more than a million people came to Christ and joined the church.

It was a work of the Holy Spirit.

Do it again Lord! Do it again!

Conclusion
There is no doubt we need to pray for America to turn back to the Lord, but it starts with us first.
How is your heart and mind?

Is there any unconfessed sin? Any willful disobedience? Any going astray?

Then turn – turn from sin and turn back to the Lord.

It’s time. It’s time.