

Joel: The God You Must Seek

Joel 1:1-20

June 13, 2017

Main Point

God sends disaster into the world to encourage you to seek Him in genuine repentance, but only the Spirit of Jesus can enable you to truly repent and seek the Lord.

1. God sends disasters into the world to warn you about the ultimate disaster that awaits every person (1:1-2:11)
2. God's warning is designed to drive you to genuine repentance so you will seek the Lord (2:12-17)
3. God promises restoration for those who repent and judgment for those who do not (2:18-27 and 3:1-21)
4. Jesus sends His Spirit to enable you to repent and seek God (2:28-32)
5. By the grace of God, practice and encourage real repentance!

Cross References and Quotations:

John Calvin: “But as there is no certainty, it is better to leave the time in which he taught undecided; and, as we shall see, this is of no great importance...for the import of his doctrine is evident, though his time be obscure and uncertain.”

John D. Whiting (National Geographic): “We marvel how this ancient writer could have given so graphic and true a description of a devastation caused by locusts in so condensed a form.”

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (NKJ): “For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹ For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what* clearing of yourselves, *what* indignation, *what* fear, *what* vehement desire, *what* zeal, *what* vindication! In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism 87: “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.”

Luke 13:1-5 (NKJ): “There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.’”

John 15:26 (NKJ): “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

John 16:8 (NKJ): “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

Acts 5:31 (NKJ): “Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”

1 John 1:9-10 (NKJ): “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

Westminster Confession of Faith 15.5: “Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavour to repent of his particular sins particularly.”

Isaiah 55:7 (NKJ): “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.”