

The PROCESS of RESTORATION

Zephaniah 1:4-6; 2:3

As of today at 8am, we began an extended, legally mandated “stay at home” as much as possible month long time period. The Coronavirus continues to cause unprecedented change in our city, country and world. Many have severe cabin fever. That is very normal. We all are getting used to a “new normal.” Our prayers and thoughts go out to all affected families.

There is a very positive side to this time period, however. It is the BONUS time we get to spend with God and our families.

In this sermon, more than anything else, I wanted you to know that God loves you and your family so very much. All families need some restoration, so don't feel like your family is somehow strange. This is a God ordained time to make things right with family members, through the direction and power of the Holy Spirit.

Zephaniah, our current sermon series, is about warning from God due to sin, but it is also about God's AWESOME restoration. OT scholar Elizabeth Achtemeier says, “Seek the Lord is Zephaniah's call, for in turning to God the people will acknowledge that they are dependent on the One who is **really God** [emphasis mine] and Lord of their lives. That seeking and turning will yield three results: 1. Humility 2. Obedience 3. Righteousness before the Lord 1

We need all three in our family life for RESTORATION! So, let's make GOOD USE of this time and Praise God for our FAMILIES!

Elizabeth Achtemeier, *Interpretation* (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1986) 1

In Christ,

Pastor Walton