**GOD IS CALLING FOR REPENTANCE**

**Joel 2:12 – 14**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The occasion has brought on the book of Joel was the people of Israel were faced with the

 most devastating plague of locusts the land had known.

 A. Wave after wave of destroying locusts swept down upon them (all vegetation in sight).

2. In addition to this, a serious drought came to complete the picture of devastation and ruin.

 A. For Israel, it was a tragic period of time.

 B. Men were desperate, and ready to listen to Joel proclaiming God’s Divine Will.

3. The 73 verses in this book are divided into two [2] categories for the Israelites:

 A. The 1st 37 verses (1:1-2:17) are a call to PRAY and REPENT.

 B. The 2nd 36 verses (2:18-3:21) a promise to remove the plagues, bestow prosperity and

 give rich Spiritual BLESSINGS.

**BODY:**

**1. GOD IS CALLING FOR REPENTANCE**

A. Israel had enough and willing to do what they should have been doing already.

 B. In order to realize one’s need for God, one is unable to turn themselves around.

 1. It is amazing how this is like people today. When do we come to our senses?

**2. TURN WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS**

A. Since being told to turn back to God, it is evident their lives were **NOT** right.

 B. As they were being told to turn back to God, they were to turn with "all their hearts".

 1. God has always demanded "whole heart" service (Deu 6:5; Mt 22:37).

 2. He is NEVER satisfied with anything less than whole-hearted LOVE and service.

**3. TURN WITH FASTING, WEEPING AND MOURNING**

 A. This instruction covered both the inward and outward man.

 1. Inwardly, there was the sorrow of the heart resulting in mourning.

 2. Outwardly, the fasting and weeping.

 B. Today, as [we] are being told to turn back to God, there is a vital lesson to be learned.

 1. [We] need to turn back with fasting, weeping and mourning.

 2. There is NO need for one to be tempted to raise an eye­brow “to fasting”.

 A. Mt 9:14, 15; Mk 2:18; Lk 5:33; Ac 13:21; 1 Cor 7:6; 2 Cor 6:5

**4. REND THEIR HEART NOT JUST THEIR GARMENTS (JOEL 2:13)**

A. Contrition [repentance] involves more than just an outward appearance.

 1. They were instructed to **NOT** only outwardly appear sorrowful, **BUT** inwardly.

 B. To rend their garments, among the Jews, was a token of great grief suggesting to those

 who saw such things would be overwhelmed with sorrow.

 1. Possible exhibiting the external signs of grief without inward feelings of sorrow.

 C. To eliminate this from being a concern, rend your hearts **NOT** just their garments.

**5. THE REASON: WHY REPENT AND TURN TO THE LORD (JOEL 2:13B, 14B)?**

A. Notice what Joel says, if they will repent of their sins against the Lord, God is Gracious,

 Merciful, Slow To Anger, Kind, Loving and Willing to forgive them of their sin.

 1. Notice: There is much cause for rejoicing!!

 B. The remainder of Joel says what The Lord Will Do, if they will return and repent.

 C. The New Testament reveals The Lord is **NOT** slack with His Promises (2 Pet 3:9).