

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. (Psalm 23:3)

From time to time on the side of the highway I will see a car displaying a white handkerchief, a white towel, or a white plastic bag hanging out of the window. When I see this, it is my understanding that the owner is leaving all of us a message about the vehicle. The message is meant to be understood as a message of distress. The owner is not trying to convey that the vehicle is abandoned, only that the vehicle is disabled, out of fuel, or in need of repair.

Perhaps your life today resembles a white-flagged vehicle on the side of the road. Just as there is a limit to how far a broken or empty car can travel, there is a limit to how far a broken or empty life can keep going. If you are feeling broken today it may be time to send out a message. Are you feeling abandoned on the side of life's highway? The pain of abandonment surely hurts. To feel like no one cares and we are all alone in our broken down state can bring us to despair. It can cause a person to want to give up. Well, maybe it is time to give up. Maybe it's time to surrender. Give up trying to repair or fix your broken life and surrender your life to God. Maybe it's time to give up trying to fill the emptiness and ask God for assistance...put out the white flag for the Lord's sake. He sees.

When you raise the white flag of surrender to God, He is glorified. That white flag tells the Lord you are broken down and in need of repair. And when you finally give up control of a life that is already out of control, it is then that God can go to work. He finds great joy in repairing that which is broken, restoring disabled lives, and sending them out to travel freely on life's highway. He is able to fill that emptiness that we desperately have been filling with all the wrong things causing many breakdowns on the side of life's road. Consider the following scripture and allow me to share a couple of thoughts about this journey of life we are traveling.

I. THE ROAD TO RESTORATION BEGINS ON THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. Broken down on the side of the road, we need to be restored in the journey. Our souls are broken down from the beginning of our lives. We are in need of restoration. Sometimes a car is more apt to break down on rough roads. Sometimes a car can get stuck on low roads. God's road for our lives is the Highway of Holiness. Righteousness is goodness according to God's standard and instruction. The road to righteousness is the road God travels while we follow. Following God transforms us. Following Him helps make us like God. Our final destination will lead you to God. And no one there will be unlike Him. We need His help to be like Him and are in constant need of His roadside assistance on whatever road we are traveling.

II. THE ROAD TO RESTORATION IS NAMED TO HONOR GOD.

Many times we see signs that tell us the road on which we are traveling is named for someone. The purpose is to honor that person or to lead you to their location. The King's Highway is the road to restoration...for it honors and leads to the King. Which road are you traveling today? And where will it lead? We need to know who we're following and be sure we will arrive at a desired destination. Follow Jesus...be restored...for His name's sake. He gets the glory for my restoration when I reach my final destination. I will be like Him.

Thank the Lord today for His plan of restoration...the goal of our salvation. Jesus is Lord!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam

In this month of November with emphasis on giving "thanks," the congregation of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church is very grateful to the "good" Lord for having brought Pastor Sam and Sharon Gore to us. These last 8 years the entire family has served unselfishly with agape love, and for that we are grateful!