

Week of 01-29-2023

Series: The Story, Ch. 2, Pt. 1

Sermon: Turn it Off and Turn it Back On Again

Text: Genesis 6-9

### **Sermon Outline:**

Biblical Truth: God is faithful to keep his covenant.

1. God's covenant is not contingent on you.
2. God's plans are not altered by you.
3. God's promises don't depend on you.
4. God's faithfulness is a sign for you.

### **Discussion Questions:**

Read Genesis 6:5-14; 7:1-10, 22-24; 8:13-22; 9:8-29.

1. God's covenant with Noah was not contingent on Noah. And God's covenant of salvation is not contingent on you. Do you have a difficult time believing this? Even when you ARE intellectually believing this, can it be tough to live accordingly? Or to word it another way: How often do you think and live like your salvation depends (to some degree) on you?
2. Read Ephesians 1:4. God's plans are not altered by us. Even before Adam and Eve's really bad choice in Genesis 3 and practically all of mankind's wickedness early in Genesis 6, God had a plan to save those He had chosen. If you are a Christian, discuss the assurance and peace that comes with knowing that God had chosen you "before the foundation of the world".
3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. God made a promise to never destroy the earth again with a flood. But mankind went right back to sinning. Nevertheless, God kept His promise to not destroy the earth (He is merciful) AND He sent Jesus, who was sinless, in order that we could be reconciled to God through Him (He is gracious). Where have you seen God not giving you the punishment you deserve (mercy) AND God giving you the blessing you don't deserve (grace)?
4. God is always faithful to do what He says he will do AND He has given us signs as reminders of His faithfulness. In Genesis 6, He gave us a rainbow and ultimately He has provided an empty tomb.  
Have you ever doubted God's faithfulness? If applicable, discuss times when you sought assurance by:
  - Leaning on God's promises in the Bible where He promises to never leave you (Matthew 28:20), answer prayer (John 14:14), and give you the power to overcome (Philippians 4:13).
  - Leaning on the Bible's testimonies of God showing up over and over again.
  - Reaching back in your 'memory files' to recall the times when God showed up for you in the past.