**7/20/25 The Lord is Clear! Zechariah 7:8-14**

**1. Introduction**

* Many will try to change God’s Word to fit their beliefs, plans and life styles because it is not allowing them to do what they want to do.
* God provides us with a clear warning about trying to add or subtract from His Word.
* The people ask the priest if they had to continue the yearly fast.
* The people were informed that they had left their first love.
* Acts of justice and mercy were more important than their fasting.
* God says that an attitude of worship without a sincere desire to know and love Him will do no good.

**Revelation 2:1-7; 22:18-19; Hebrews 10:25, 13:8; Zechariah 7:1-7**

**2. We cannot just dismiss our past failures.**

* Some think that if you just falsify, then not talk about parts of our history, future generations will accept whatever they say.
* True repentance means to have a change of heart, mind and behavior.
* God tells the people to simply judge fairly and honestly and show compassion and kindness to one another.
* God expected His followers to help and protect the groups being oppressed.
* Jesus said “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”
* Jesus said don’t be indecisive, just give an answer of yes or no to a question.
* Earlier generations were exposed to the pleas of the “former prophets,” but still did not repent nor yield to them.

**Zechariah 1:2-3, 7:8-12; Matthew 5:37, 25:40, 45; James 1:27**

**3. Our Lord is just in His dealings with us.**

* Their forefathers stopped listening to God, so God stopped listening to them.
* The people lived as strangers, and the land became desolate because they refused to listen to the Lord’s message through His prophets.
* The people could repent and know God’s blessing or rebel and experience His punishment.

**Zechariah 7:13-14**

Women’s Ministry Planning Zoom Meeting, Monday, July 21, 7 PM; First Women’s Ministry Meeting, Saturday, August 16th, in the Fellowship Hall.

The Food Pantry will be open on Thursday, July 24 from 3-5 PM.

City of Valdosta Community Back to School Block Party, Saturday, July 26th,  8:30 AM - 1 PM, Unity Park Amphitheater, 301 E. Central Avenue.  Free haircuts, free food, and free school supplies.

SGMBA Zoom Christian Leadership School classes:  Dr. Joe Troope, **Spiritual Warfare**, Tuesdays and Thursdays from September 4th-18th.  Book:  What You Need to Know About Spiritual Warfare by Max Anders.

Minister Joice Rainge, **Christianity and Contemporary Issues**, September 22nd-26th, M-F, Book: Christianity in the 21st Century by Robert Wuthnow.

All classes will be from 6-8 PM.  Registration is now open and will close on Friday, August 22.  If you need assistance with registration, please contact Dea. Greg Battles.

Men’s Day, Sunday, August 10th, Guest Speaker, Dr. Samuel Clemons, Sr., Pleasant Temple Baptist Church.

**Thought for the Week:** If you only follow Christ when He gives you good things, and not when you struggle, then you’re not following Christ at all!