

<u>What to do right after the service to help "the Word dwell more richly," within us (Colossians 3:16)</u>:
1. Instead of rushing off after the service or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, "How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?" Or "what about God in the message encouraged you?"

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don't let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share

[Above from book Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member]

For further Application, Meditation, and Conversation on today's text: Date: 1/28/2024 – "Restoration, Repayment & Ransom" (Exodus 21:24-22:4)

1. In Exodus 21:24-25, how would you respond to those who say "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" is barbaric or primitive? Did God intend this for physical revenge among citizens? Why or why not from the context?

2. In v. 26-27 and 16, how does God's law treat slaves differently than other ancient man-made laws? How was this different from American slavery?

3. In v. 28-31, what principles from laws about accidental death or negligence could apply today and how? Where have you failed to consider the safety of others as love for neighbor and how can you better obey that commandment?

4. For the principles of restoration (v. 34) or repayment (v. 36), how might Christians apply that today when we wrong others physically or relationally?

5. In 22:1-4, how do the principles for theft compare to laws today? How can you as a Christian make things right when you wrong others (compare Luke 19:1-10)? Consider also the restoration language in Galatians 6:1-2, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Matthew 5:23-24, etc. Is there someone you need to pursue?

6. How does the concept of "ransom" in 21:30 help you understand the gospel in a deeper way? How can you respond in praise as those "ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven" (from the hymn Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven)?