

## **REMEMBER, REPENT, RETURN, AND REJOICE**

(Rev. 2:1-7)

### **Introduction:**

1. The church in Ephesus had a lot going for it, but they had lost their first love (their faith was not perfect, cp. Rev. 3:2). Thus our Lord, in His message to the church in Ephesus urged them to remember, repent, and return to their first works. Doing this would allow them to rejoice (v. 7).
2. This alliterated formula is a common theme/admonition in the Bible.
3. Let us consider this formula of remembering, repenting, returning, and rejoicing.

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. Remember.**

- A. All mankind = Rom. 1:18-32 = remember God's existence and nature.
- B. The Nation of Israel = Ex. 32:7, 8; 1 Kings 8:16, 21; Neh. 9:9, 18; Acts 7:36 = reminded that God delivered them out of Egyptian bondage.
- C. Christians = John 17:20; Acts 2:36; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 5:7; 2 Cor. 5:14; Gal. 3:13; Eph. 1:3-14.
- D. All must remember God, that He is and all that he has done for all that He might bless and ultimately reward all.

#### **II. Repent and Return.**

- A. These two terms are almost always tied together and so we shall consider them.
- B. In the Old Testament = Ezek. 18:30-32 = repent (shoob) and return (shoob) = natural/proper response to remembering God and all He has done.
- C. In the New Testament = Mark 1:4, 15, Matt. 3:8-10 = repent and bear fruit worthy of repentance (return) which is equivalent to believing and being saved.
- D. All must repent and return (2 Cor. 5:14-18; Acts 8:22).

#### **III. Rejoice.**

- A. Those who have remembered, repented, and returned can rejoice no matter the circumstances in which they find themselves (Matt. 28:9; Phil. 4:4-13; 1 Pet. 1:6-9).
- B. The word of God has been given to ensure that our joy can always be full (1 John 1:4; 2 John 12).

### **Conclusion:**

1. It is not an accident that the Bible ends with an appeal to remember (Rev. 22:20, 21). That remembrance ought to lead naturally to repentance and return, which produces joy inexpressible.
2. That is why it is so important for God's people to assemble often to remind one another of the Truth, and to equip one another to share that truth with those outside. That knowledge is what leads the honest down the road to rejoicing!
3. Invitation.

## **PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING DEC. 31ST**

### ***Those with long term issues***

Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes and MS, and Harrison Waldron.

### ***Those with short term issues***

- ▶ Darrell McKee and Jeff Hofgren as they continue to recovery from cancer treatments.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues and is moving.
- ▶ Kyle Lingenfelter as he seeks to find the cause and a treatment for his right wrist/hand.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling.
- ▶ Our college students who are away from us in body, but not in spirit.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.
- ▶ Our community; that they may seek the Lord and we might be able to guide them into the truth.