

FOR PASTORS & CHURCHES

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their lands.”

II Chronicles 7:14

Sunday
morning
Christianity
is the
greatest
hindrance to
true revival.

-- Vance Havner --



**Wilt thou not revive us again:
that thy people may rejoice in thee?”**

Psalms 85:6

REVIVAL!

Psalm 85:6

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

God's Plan to Make America Great Again!

I am sure that every Christian in America has heard that phrase, "Make America Great Again." That was the theme of Donald Trump's campaign when he ran for the President of the United States. He continues to use the phrase again and again, even wearing a baseball cap with that theme on it. I have no objection to that phrase. I have no objection to President Trump wanting and trying to accomplish that. However, the plan that he has to "Make American Great Again" has never worked and will not work this time. Psalm 33:12 states,

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

The only hope for America to be great again, is found in the above verse. The verses following Verse 12 make it clear that a "nation being blessed" cannot be done by human resources. Verse 16 states, *"There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength."*

The only thing that will "Make America Great Again," is when "God becomes the LORD of our nation." However, regardless of all the government does and, as good as they might do it, America will not be great again until "the church has REVIVAL!" The result of the church having revival will bring a nation back to God and "make God the Lord of that nation."

Today, independent Baptist churches across America have a "Revival Meeting." They generally plan for a "revival meeting" at least a year in advance and generally have one "once a year." That brings us to the question of exactly "what is revival?" What does it mean for a church to have revival, Not a "revival meeting" but true revival? II Chronicles 7:14 explains what a revival is.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

According to the Bible, the above verse explains the only thing that can be classified as a "True Revival." In some cases, the phrase "revival meeting" is misunderstood, or maybe "mis-phrased." Many churches today, when they plan a "revival meeting" they invite a good preacher in to preach the meeting. Then they

start doing everything they can to "attract lost people" to attend. They challenge the congregation to invite their lost friends. They have special nights, like "Pack-A-Pew" night. When the meeting starts, the guest preacher generally will preach at least one of two messages on "How to be Saved." He will preach on other "topical" messages during the meeting but will generally include salvation in every message. Topical messages are good. I have preached a number of them over the past 50 years. As good as those types of messages are, they are not messages that bring revival to people. The church should have meetings like that but call them "Evangelistic Meetings."

I rejoice when people get saved during any type of service, regular services, a Mission Conference, Revival Meeting, or any other type of meeting. However, that is not revival. I am in total agreement with trying to get lost people to church, but you cannot "revive" lost people. Lost people have "no life to revive." They are "dead in trespasses and sin" (Ephesians 2:1). Revival is for "God's people!" And for God's people only. When David wrote Psalm 85:6, David was a saved man! He said, "*Wilt thou not revive us again: that **thy people** may rejoice in thee?*"

I have heard pastors make "excuses" for not having a "true revival meeting" by saying, "People should get revived when they see people get saved." God clearly told us that - that IS NOT the way revival comes to a church. That is not even indicated in the Scriptures that people getting saved is revival. People should rejoice when people get saved, and they do. However, rejoicing is not revival and it does not bring revival. On the other side of that coin, if a church has a true Holy Spirit revival that will result in "people packing the pews" and people hearing the Gospel and people being saved.

Let's go back and "break down" II Chronicles 7:14 and see what God said "will bring revival." This verse not only tells us "why" God will heal our nation and make America great again, but it also tells us "when" God will heal our nation. When will God heal our nation? The verse we are referring to is "clearly in context." In previous verses, God has a warning to Solomon that if "the people" (Israel) disobey his commandments, that He "... will shut up heaven and there will be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people..." God followed that with the verse we are looking at. God said if they disobey, they will be chastised, but:

1) "If my people..." Revival does not start with the Federal government, the State government, the local government, or with the "people of the world" in general. The only thing God speaks to "lost people of the world" about, is repent and trust Christ." In this verse, God makes sure we know who He is talking to. He went "the extra mile" by stating it twice, just in different ways. God said, "IF MY PEOPLE, ...which are CALLED BY MY NAME..."

God does not say, nor allude to ANY thing about "other people." He is talking to His people! Today, that would mean, "God is talking to His people - Christians." Notice, God said, **"If..."** Revival does not start with God. God is ALWAYS ready to revive His people. Revival starts with **"you and me"** and it starts "when you and I want it to start." Anyone that truly wants revival can have revival. The "if" means that you and I have a choice. We can have revival **"if"** we want to meet God's conditions. God is not holding back revival in the churches in America. Christians in churches across America are holding back revival. Why? Because "they do not want revival!"

2) "...shall humble themselves..." For most of us Christians, we are too proud to "admit" that we NEED revival." We are satisfied with our "Christian life" the way we are living it at present. As a church we are saying, "I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing." If anyone denies that, point them to Revelation 3:17 where God described the church in the last days. Before revival can come to a church the people must "humble themselves" and admit that, they are "wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked..." God cannot "revive" a person until the person admits that they need and want to be revived.

3) "...and pray, and seek my face..." God is "WAITING" on His people to seek Him, wanting His blessing back on their life and their church. The verse following II Chronicles 7:14, says,
"Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place." Like I shared above, revival does not depend upon God. He is "looking and listening" to hear us say we NEED revival and we WANT revival.

4) "...and turn from their wicked ways..." The word "wicked" in this verse does not simply mean, "drunkards, fornicators, adulterers, and things of that nature, which is generally what we think when we hear the word "wicked." It comes from the Hebrew word, "ra" and it means "anything that is wrong." It means "anything that is not pleasing to God."

It means stop being "luke-warm!" It means we must stop thinking of ourselves as "rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing."

5) "Then..." The word "then" is the answer to David's question in Psalm 85:6 where he asked, "Wilt thou not revive us again?" The answer to David's question is, "YES!" God will revive us again. The word, **"then"** tells us "when" God will "revive us again." God said, "THEN..." What does that mean? It means "If my people ... *shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*" It means **"then"** and it means, "not before then!"

I have been asked this question a number of times: "Do you think we can have revival in America today?" The answer to that question is "yes!" Yes, we can have revival in the churches in America today - **"IF" we want it.** If Christians "want" revival, they can have it. However, revival does not start with "the church." That would be like trying to start a fire with "the back-logs." A fire is started with "kindling wood." The "kindling wood" starts the fire, and then the "backlogs" catch on fire and it spreads. Revival starts when "one or two people in a church get "thoroughly right with God" and become "human kindling wood." From the "two or three" people who are willing to be used of God as "human kindling wood," the church will catch on fire and the fire will spread. Can we have revival in the churches in America? Yes! If you want revival, I will share "five" steps that will guarantee that you will have revival. These steps reveal if you "want revival." If you truly want revival, the five steps will tell you what to do to have revival.

I. You must be Dissatisfied with Your Christian Life!

If you truly want revival, you must first be dissatisfied with "your life" as a Christian that you are now living. You must confess that the life you are now living IS NOT the life God would have you to be living. You must say, I am not satisfied with my life. I am tired of the life I am now living. You must confess that, for the most part, you are just "occupying a seat" in the church building and not being involved in the "work of the church - for the cause of Christ".

What did Isaiah mean, when he said, "I am a man of unclean lips?" I do not think he was a man who was using "vile language." I do not think he went around cursing people. I do not think he went around telling "dirty stories and jokes." You will never convince me that a Holy God would use a man doing those things to be "the human penman" and write a portion of His Holy Word! I cannot believe that! I believe that Isaiah, after seeing a fresh vision of a "Holy God, high and lifted up," was convicted in his heart that much of what he, and the people around him were doing, was what we call "lip service." I recall Dr. Vance Havner, during his message to the Southern Baptist National meeting, "If talk would have gotten it done, us Baptist would have gotten it done a long time ago." In my opinion, the same can be said of our independent Baptist churches of today!

Ask yourself these questions:

- 1) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the amount of time you spend "living the Christian Life and involved in the ministry and work of your church," compared with how much of your time you spend just enjoying your life the way you want to live it?
- 2) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the amount of time you spend with God in His Word?

- 3) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the time you spend in prayer, meeting with God and asking Him to "mold you into the likeness of His dear Son? (Romans 8:29)
- 4) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the time you spend in prayer, interceding for others?
- 5) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with how often you avail yourself of opportunities you have to "hand a person a Gospel tract?"
- 6) Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the burden you have for lost souls? Is your burden anything close to the burden that the Apostle Paul had when he said in Romans 9:3, *"For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh...?"* Do you hand a tract to every person where you have an opportunity to hand one out? Do you witness every opportunity?
- 7) If you are not "dissatisfied" with your life, there is NO HOPE of you experiencing revival in your life. It is "sick people" who go to a doctor seeking help. People who are satisfied with the way they feel, and who think they are healthy never go to a doctor!

At the Judgement Seat of Christ, will you gladly give an account for the life you are now living? What part of your life you are living today will be important at the Judgment Seat of Christ? What part of your life will have no importance?

If you truly want revival, when evaluating your life, you must come to the place where, like Job, after he looked back over his life, said in Job 42:6, *"I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes."* And like Peter in Luke 5:8, when he realized his condition, said, *"I am a sinful man."* And like Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1-5, after seeing God, high and lifted up, said, *"Woe is me! for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King the LORD of host."*

II. You Must Have a Driving Desire to be Different.

Jeremiah 20:9 states that desire was in the heart of Jeremiah. He wrote, *"Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I COULD NOT STAY!"*

We addressed the question earlier: "Can America have revival?" That has to be with the understanding that when we say "can America" we mean can Bible

believing churches in America" have revival. There is no such thing in the Bible as a "nation" having revival. According to the Bible, a nation will "greatly prosper" and be blessed of God, (if Bible believing churches in America have revival?) (Psalm 33:12). But "revival" is for "God's people." Revival IS NOT for lost people of any nation, no matter how "moral" they may be. The people of the world are "dead in their trespasses and sins." (Ephesians 2:1) You cannot revive people who are "dead!"

There is a major problem in Bible believing churches in America, that must be resolved before Bible believing churches in America can have revival. Believers MUST WANT REVIVAL! Most believers, and I am talking about true believers, people who are born again, do not really want revival. By and large, most believers are "afraid of revival." They enjoy the life they are now living. They are afraid if the church has revival that it will "change their life-style," and it will and they DO NOT want that change.

I heard a story that paints a picture of that statement. There was a little boy, maybe three or four years old. He was raised in a Christian family, but not yet old enough to understand much about spiritual things. Since he was born, he had been sleeping in the same room with his parents. They had already prepared a very nice room for him, just waiting until they felt he was old enough and could adjust to being in a room by himself. That time came and his mother sat down, talked to him about "having his own room." That was very new to him and naturally, he was uneasy and did not really understand why he needed to have his own room. After a couple of days of "preparation" they told him that that night he would be sleeping in "his own room" and they made a "big deal" out of it: "his own room." The boy reluctantly agreed but was uneasy about moving to a room by himself.

That night his mother prepared him for bed, said his prayers with him, and tucked him in his bed. After tucking him in, she quietly closed his door and she and her husband sat down in their den "hoping" he would adjust and sleep well. The boy, in his room, was uneasy when he went to bed, and the longer he laid in his little bed, it got scarier and scarier. He tried to stay, but it came to the point that he just could not stand it any longer. He jumped out of bed, ran to his parents and said, "Mama! Mama! I'm scared!" His mother said, "Son, why are you scared? Your father and I are right here in the next room." "I know," he said, "but there is a lion in that room!" His mom assured him there was no lion in his room. Her son kept insisting there was something in his room and finally asked, "Mom, if's not a lion in my room, who is it? I keep hearing strange noises."

His mom explained to him that there was no one in his room except him and God. She assured him that God was in his room with him and that God loved him, and that God would take care of him. Finally, the little boy agreed to go back to bed. His mom went with him, tucked him in again and had a short prayer with him in hopes of quieting his fear. His mom left, closed the door, but stood at the door very

quietly and listened. She was wanting to make sure her son was okay. The little boy laid in his bed, real still. He pulled the covers up to his nose in an attempt to protect himself from the danger he felt. After a few minutes of looking around the room again and again, his mother heard him say, "God, if you are in the room with me, and you really love me, PLEASE don't move. You will scare me to death!"

That is about the same feeling many Christians have when they are in a good church service and they are afraid God is going to "speak to their heart" about changing their life. They stand real still and "HOPE" that nothing is going to happen! I know of two people who confessed to going through a situation similar to the one the little boy went through. Both were men. One of them told about his experience and said exactly what I described above. God was speaking and convicting his heart about something he needed to change in his life. He said, "It took some doing, but I held on to the pew in front of me as long as I could and FINALLY the invitation got over and I was able to 'get out' without going to the altar."

The other one was also a man and told about standing in their church during a service with his wife standing beside him. He said he knew that the message had spoken to her heart, because the message was about something that she had already talked to him about. He continued by saying, "While the invitation continued, I could tell she was thinking about going forward, but I prayed as hard as I have ever prayed that she would not go down and embarrass me." We think: How sad! But I am sure that the same type of things go on during every service when a good message has been preached and an invitation is given!

If you are EVER going to have revival, you must first "be dissatisfied with the life you are now living" and you must want to be changed - and, be willing to let God make the changes in your life that He wants to make. If you are not willing - there is "no hope" of you ever having revival. Why? Because you do not really want revival!

III. You Must "Be in the Place of God's Blessings!"

If you want revival, you must not forsake God's House. You cannot expect to have God's blessings and you cannot hope to have revival if you do not "assemble yourself" in the place where the blessings of God flow. That place is called "the church!" God gave us that commandment in Hebrews 10:25.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Even in the Old Testament, that was one of the most important commandments which Israel was to observe. The walls of Jerusalem had fallen. Israel had gone into captivity. God called Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, which signify the "Glory of God" and then to restore spiritual worship to the

nation of Israel. After the walls had been built, Chapter Nine says the people confessed and repented of their sins, which included "the forsaking of the house of their God."

After the people had confessed and repented, in Chapter Ten it says the people made a "covenant," put it in writing - and "sealed it!" (Nehemiah 9:38) When the covenant was made, and put in writing, it was signed by the head of each of the families of Israel. Those are listed in the first 28 verses of Nehemiah Chapter 10. The covenant made by the people of Israel is given, in writing, in Nehemiah 10:29-39. The covenant was "concluded" in the closing line of Verse 39 by the people saying, ***"...and we will not forsake the house of our God."***

God's Word makes that clear, without question, that unless you are "providentially" hindered from attending, you should be "in the house of God" on the Lord's day. The word "providentially" means that "by a divine act of God" something keeps you from attending services. That might be sickness. It might be a member of your family is sick and needs your help. There are many things that are providential - your car won't start, you have an accident on the way to church, you are called out on an emergency, you are hindered by things such as working in law enforcement or, you are serving on the fire department. You may be a "first responder." In my opinion, any emergency or "something that is beyond your control" might fall under the word "providentially."

However, there are also many things that cause people to "forsake the assembling" of themselves together in the house of God, which are not providential. In other words, "they just skip church!" Going to the lake is not being "providentially hindered." Going fishing on the Lord's Day is not being "providentially hindered." Arising early and sitting in a deer stand on the Lord's Day is not "providentially hindered." Having family over for dinner, going to visit family, or just "feeling tired, lazy and not wanting to get out bed, get ready, and go to the Lord's House," is not being providentially hindered. All of those things, along with many, many other similar excuses, are under the actions of, "MY LIFE - MY CHOICE!"

If you want revival, you cannot forsake God's House. It is important. If you forsake God's House, that shows that Jesus Christ **does not have the "preeminence" in your life.** (Colossians 1:16-18) Without that, there is NO REVIVAL!

*"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things he might have the preeminence.**"*

If you put "self" ahead of Jesus Christ, there will be no revival. If you prefer to go fishing, hunting, go to the lake, sleep in, and all other things on the list that are "not providential," that means that those things are "more important" to you than obeying the commandment of God. You cannot expect to have revival. It also proves you do not really want revived!

IV. You Must "Clean Out the Corners of your Heart."

If you need revival, that means that you are not where you used to be in your Christian life. You have, little by little, let things creep into your life that are "not Christian." That is easy to do. Also, when that happens and you let little things creep in, you "get used to them." The first time it happened, you knew it was wrong and felt bad about it, but you did not repent. After all, it was just a "little thing." You did not get drunk, murder someone, or fall into immorality. You just let something small "**slip**" into your life, and then "you got used to it" and it did not seem so bad!

It reminds me of a story Dr. Vance Havner told several years before he died. He and a friend ran into each other. They had not seen each other in several years. They decided to go out to dinner together. There was a nice "up-scale" restaurant close by that they had both heard of but they had never been there. It was convenient, so they decided to "give it a try." When they got inside, it was a nice restaurant, but a little dark, plus there were people smoking, which they noticed immediately. They talked about going to another restaurant, but neither of them knew of one close by, so they decided to stay. Besides, it was late, and the sun had gone down.

They finished their dinner, caught up on "old times" and were ready to leave. They had been in the restaurant about an hour, maybe a little more. They paid their bill and walked through the door into the night. They had no sooner gotten outside, when Dr. Havner's friend took a deep breath and said, "What is that I smell?" Dr. Havner said, "That's fresh air!" They had been in the "smoked filled" restaurant so long that they "had gotten used to the smell." When they got in "normal fresh air," they thought it was "abnormal."

Christians let "little things" creep into their life and, after a while, what was "abnormal" when it first crept in, became "normal" and they did not even notice. I will give you an example, not of something creeping into a Christian's life, but an illustration you will understand. Years ago, I was preaching in a city in Pennsylvania. It was a good independent Baptist church, so I am not criticizing the church or any member. The pastor and I were having dinner with a different family in the church each evening. On that night, we were invited to a very nice home. The house had been built about a hundred years ago but had been beautifully restored to original condition. The pastor had told me the history of the house as we drove and how these people had restored it and it was beautiful.

We knocked on the door, they answered and invited us in. We sat down in the livingroom and begin to talk to the man. I had talked and gotten to know him from his being in services through the week. His wife was putting the finishing touches on dinner. The house, being old, had about 10-foot ceilings! As I said, they had carefully restored it to look original. However, on one side of the living room there were about three pipes which came down through the ceiling about a foot, then turned. A pipe, maybe an inch thick, ran all the way across the room to the other side and then had a "right angle" on it. All three of the pipes went back up and through the ceiling. I wondered, "What in the world are those pipes for?" We were talking about the house, how old it was, what a great job they had done in restoring it, so I felt I would not be offensive if I asked, so I said, "Brother _____, if you do not mind me asking, what are those pipes for?" He looked at me with a "questioning look" and said, "What pipes?" When I pointed up to the pipes and said, "Those pipes!" His face changed. He laughed and said, "Oh! Those pipes! Those pipes have been here so long that they have become a part of the house." He continued, "They have been there since we bought the house and we don't even notice them anymore."

Did you get the message? We let "little things" **slip** into our life and if we do not deal with them immediately, confess them, and "clean them out." We get used them and do not even think about them being there.

You may have noticed that I put the word "**slip**" on bold print and underlined it twice in the section. I did that for a reason. I want to call your attention to a scripture that you very seldom hear referred to that uses the word "**slip.**" Let's look at Hebrews 2:1-4.

*" Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest **at any time we should let them slip.** For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"*

The verse says, "...lest at any time we should let them slip..." Let what slip? Leading up to that phrase the verse says, "...the thing which we have heard..." which refers to "the things in the Word of God." It is sad to say, but it is true, that over the last 50 to 60 years the church has let a number of things "slip." I will not even try to name all of the things that the church has let "slip out" of the church and the things that the church has let "slip into" the church" but I will mention a few.

The church has let standards slip. Back in the 1950's and 1960's, when the church was "on fire for God," they had standards and stood for them without apology.

They had "dress standards" for both men and women. It was not unusual to hear a pastor preach on Deuteronomy 22:5 and break it down as to what it was, how it applied, and why it was wrong. That standard has "slipped." I have not heard a message on that verse in over 50 years. There were standards on what type of music was acceptable in a church service - and, not only in a church service, but what type of music should be listened to in the home, car or anywhere else. I have not heard a message on that subject in many years. That standard has "slipped." In past years there were standards about "mixed swimming" and it was preached on. Today, churches let teachers and youth pastors plan socials and take their kids to a place of "mixed swimming" and no one preaches against it. Why? That standard has slipped. Many churches have brought "the world into the church," something totally forbidden by Scripture, but that standard has "slipped." Preachers used to preach about "separation" but today, the wall of separation has broken down in many churches. Today we hear very little preaching on separation. Why? Because churches have joined in with churches that do not hold to the Word of God. That standard has "slipped." I could go on, but no point.

Following the word "**slip**" in Verse one, the verses following that refer to the "word of angels being steadfast and sure." It further states, that "...if the word of angels was steadfast and sure...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" The answer to that question is, "We won't!" What is the answer? Revival! We need to open our eyes and say, "Oh! Those pipes?" Yes, those pipes. The ones that have "slipped" into our church and lives. We need to "clean out the corner of our hearts!"

V. You Must Develop a "Right Purpose" in Your Life.

Today, the purpose of life for the entire world is divided into "four-categories." Those categories are:

There are People Who Have "No Purpose" in Life.

These people have never realized that life has a purpose. These people are like a ship on the ocean with "no rudder" to guide the ship. Like that ship, they are tossed "to and fro" by the winds and waves. They are "ever changing" the things they are interested in. They are excited about "one thing today, but another tomorrow." They are generally lazy because they have no purpose or goal to live for. They are insecure. Again, that is because they do not know that they have a purpose in their life. It has never occurred to them that they were created "with a purpose."

The same is true with an "airplane" flying through the skies with "no rudder." They are "an accident looking for a place to happen." When that happens it totally destroys the plane. It will do the same for a person with "no purpose." No one reading

this message, or hearing it preached, would dream of "starting across the ocean" in a boat with no rudder. If a person knew that the airplane they were waiting to board had "no rudder," they would not even think about boarding that plane to fly cross-country! Yet, we have people today who go through life and have "no rudder" to guide their life. They live from day to day and have "no purpose" whatsoever in their life, except - to live "from day to day."

There are People Who Have a "Wrong Purpose" in Life.

A "wrong purpose" in life is a purpose that is "temporal." Making money is a purpose that many, many people have today. Making money is a wrong purpose. I have heard people ask, "What is such and such a man worth?" You may have asked that same question about yourself. Do you want to know "what you are worth?" I can tell you how to figure out "exactly" what you are worth. Take a blank legal pad in your hand and write this down. Make a list of "everything that you have that - money will not buy, and, that death will not take away" and you know exactly what you are worth. If money will buy it or death will take it away - it is not worth anything. Those things have NO eternal value. Therefore, they have no value at all. They are "temporary." If a person spends their life "making money," they have wasted the life that God gave them.

Some people will disagree with me and that's fine. Let me make a list of 25 things that money will buy, and that money will not buy.

Money will buy eyeglasses, but it will not buy eyesight.
Money will buy hearing aids, but it will not buy hearing.
Money will buy food, but it will not buy an appetite.
Money will buy fun, but it will not buy happiness.
Money will buy medicine, but it will not buy health.
Money will buy education, but it will not buy wisdom.
Money will buy a second chance, but it will not buy time.
Money will buy a house, but it will not buy a home.
Money will buy ability, but it will not buy confidence.
Money will buy influence, but it will not buy trust.
Money will buy subjection, but it will not buy loyalty.
Money will buy cosmetics, but it will not buy beauty.
Money will buy acquaintances, but it will not buy friendship.
Money will buy outward possessions, but it will not buy inward peace.
Money will buy reputation, but it will not buy character.
Money will buy opinion of others, but it will not buy self-esteem.
Money will buy lust, but it will not buy love.
Money will buy happy kids, but it will not buy a loving family.
Money will buy acceptance, but it will not buy self-esteem.
Money will buy sleeping pills, but it will not buy a good night's sleep.

Money will buy people's concern, but it will not buy people's prayers.
Money will buy good times, but it will not buy God's grace.
Money will buy good luck, but it will not buy God's blessings.
Money will buy clothes, but it will not buy God's righteousness.
Money will buy more time in life, but it will not buy eternal life.

Benjamin Franklin once said the following: "Money has never made man happy, nor will it; there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants."

If "making money" is the purpose of your life, you are "wasting your life"

There are People Who Have a "Conflicting Purpose" in Life.

This is the category that many Christians are in today in 2020! It's called the "Laodicean age" - not hot - not cold, just "luke-warm!" They say, *"I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing..."* God says, *"...and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked..."* (Revelation 3:17) Many Christians today have a "conflicting purpose in their life. They want to "live for God on Sunday and Wednesday" but live for self the rest of the week.

If you Want Revival, You Need to Develop a "Right Purpose" in Your Life.

What is "the right purpose in life" for a Christian? To determine that, we need to find a pattern on a person who we are sure had a "right purpose" in their life. In the beginning, God created man "in His own image." Adam, the first man, was perfect. However, Adam sinned and marred the "image in which he was made" so we cannot use him as our pattern.

The only "perfect man" is found and described in John 14:8-9. *"Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;** and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"* As you know, that was Jesus Christ. He was the "perfect man."

When Jesus was baptized by John, and he came up out of the water, the Words of God are recorded in Matthew 3:17. *"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Why did God say that He was "well pleased" with His Son, Jesus Christ? At that time Jesus had never written a book, never taught a lesson, never preached a message, had never done anything that men today would give that honor to. John 8:29 tells us why God the Father said he was "well pleased" with Christ.

*"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**" **That is a "Right Purpose" in life for a Christian!***

That, above all else, is what the purpose of your life should be. It should be the purpose of your life every day, all day, and in every way. How do you please God? Where does "pleasing God begin?" Mark 12:30 gives us the starting place. *"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."*

Many years ago, I was reading a book written by Hudson Taylor, a great missionary to China in years past. In that book, I read something that I have never forgotten. After Hudson Taylor was saved and growing in the Lord, he realized that Mark 12:30 was "the key" to pleasing God. After realizing that truth, he said that was the desire of his heart. Therefore he began each morning with this prayer, **"Lord, please let me do something today to prove to you that I love you with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind, and with all my strength..."**

If you are familiar with the life of Hudson Taylor, you know that he went to China in 1854 at the age of 21. He died in China in 1905 at the age of 73. Below is a "brief" summary of his life. This is copied from the History of Hudson by Ed Reese:

"Hudson Taylor was the most widely used missionary in China's history. During his 51 years of service there, his China Inland Mission established 20 mission stations, brought 849 missionaries to the field (968 by 1911), trained some 700 Chinese workers, raised four million dollars by faith (following Mueller's example), and developed a witnessing Chinese church of 125,000. It has been said at least 35,000 were his own converts and that he baptized some 50,000. His gift for inspiring people to give themselves and their possessions to Christ was amazing."

John 14:21-23 clearly states how a Christian can prove his love for God.

"At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

If any Christian does not "keep" His commandment, and "keep" his words, that Christian does not love Him! It does not matter what else a person may do, how hard they may work or how much they may give, if they do not "love the Lord with all their

heart, all their soul, all their mind and with all their strength..." and do all that they can to "...please Him..." They do not have a "Right Purpose" in their life.

If you are dissatisfied with your life and if you have a desire to be different, I encourage you to "be in the place of God's blessings" and do not forsake the house of God, clean out the corners of your heart, "follow the pattern set for us by Jesus Christ," and develop the right purpose in your life.

**Revival is guaranteed to anyone who embraces and practices
"These Five Principles!"**