

Revive Us Again
Revelation 2:1-7

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

From time to time Christians go through a spiritual _____ and they need to be revived. Today, we're saying "Revive Us Again!" God graciously _____ us life, eternal life, and an abundant life. We know this because the Word of God _____ it. We would truly be impoverished without the _____ found in God's Word. What we know about God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit comes from the _____ will of God in the Bible. What we know of creation, of the cross, of the resurrection of Christ comes from the Bible. This is why we turn our _____ to the written Word of God.

While becoming a Christian is something that we do once in life, remaining _____ in our faith is a lifelong pursuit. From time to time, we all _____ reawakening to our faith, renewing our love, and reviving our spirit. We are all _____ and we need the Lord's continued forgiveness and blessing and strength. Psalm 85:6 asks, "Will You not Yourself revive us again, That Your people may _____ in You?" We can rejoice in our God when we're revived because we find in Him, once again, the joy of our salvation!

Galatians 5:22 places _____ right after _____ as a "fruit of the Spirit." Paul urges us, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). Nehemiah 8:10 reminds us that, "the joy of the LORD is your strength."

David had _____ by committing adultery with Bathsheba and by arranging the death of Uriah. His guilt ate him up inside until he confessed his sin and _____. He wrote, "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will _____ transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You" (Psalm 51:12-13). When we renew our joy in our salvation, we want to let everybody _____ about it!

Our reading today is from the words of Jesus in the Book of Revelation 2:1-7. Jesus spoke very powerful words to the church at Ephesus in the later part of the first century. Just like the Christians at Ephesus, some today have _____ their first love. Some today have stopped _____ regularly with the church, stopped _____ their Bibles, stopped _____ to God, and stopped _____ the Lord. Some attend worship but rarely get involved in the _____ of the church. The New Testament speaks about a disciple named Demas; Colossians and Philemon mention him and call him a fellowlaborer with Paul. Second Timothy 4:10 says, "for Demas, having loved this present world, has _____ me and gone to Thessalonica." Demas needed reviving!

What is revival? First, revival begins with _____. Many have forgotten what it was like when they were lost and outside of God's _____. They forgot the darkness, the

emptiness, and the life without the _____ of God. Others have forgotten what it was like when they were first saved. Remember when you became a Christian, when you came up from the waters of baptism clean and pure. Remember your joy in Christ and your zeal. Colossians 1:13-14 reminds us, “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” The Lord Jesus told the church at Ephesus, “Therefore _____ from where you have fallen” (Revelation 2:5). When Christians leave the Lord, sadly, they leave God’s blessing behind.

This is why worshiping _____ is so vital and important. It reminds us of the most important things to our _____. The Lord’s Supper is a _____ of the sacrifice of Jesus’ body and blood. **Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.** We must never quit taking communion, or stop singing, or stop praying, or stop studying God’s Word, lest we _____ what the Lord Jesus has done for us.

Second, revival follows _____. We start repenting when we become Christians, but we _____ repenting throughout our Christian life. As often as we sin, we ought to _____ ourselves and repent of that sin. The Lord told the church in Ephesus, “repent and do the _____ you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent” (Revelation 2:5). This church had existed for decades and had some mature Christians who still needed to _____ their hearts and ways.

The Lord knew people would sometimes _____ from their commitment. The Lord said to Solomon, “and if My people who are called by My name _____ themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14). Proud and arrogant people will hardly _____. Proud and arrogant people do not _____ the face of the Lord. They do not _____ to Him for help or for blessing. Only people who realize how much they _____ the Lord will humble themselves and seek His face.

When God’s people _____ the Lord and turn from their wicked ways, God takes notice and hears their prayers for forgiveness. He does more than _____; He heals their land. He blesses them and provides for their needs. He restores them. Many wonder _____ they are so unhappy. Could it be that the _____ of their sin has spoiled their lives?

Ezra helped to revive Israel and to heal Israel to God. For seventy years the people had been in captivity to Babylon. By God’s grace, Ezra led a group back to Israel to begin living as God’s people after the Babylonian captivity. Ezra 7:10 says, “For Ezra had set his heart to _____ the law of the LORD and to _____ it, and to _____ His statutes and ordinances in Israel.”

When you study God’s Word, you _____ what is right and wrong. Once Ezra taught the people God’s law, the people found that they had _____ by intermarrying with the idolatrous nations that were around them. As you read the book of Ezra, chapters 9 and 10, you learn how seriously Ezra took sin and how sincere he was in leading the people to repentance. Ezra had not sinned himself; he _____ in his heart the sins of the people. Ezra 9:3 says,

“When I heard about this matter, I tore my garment and my robe, and pulled some of the hair from my head and my beard, and sat down appalled.” **Read Ezra 9:5-6.** Ezra 10:1 says, “Now while Ezra was praying and making confession, weeping and prostrating himself before the house of God, a very large assembly, men, women and children, gathered to him from Israel; for the people _____ bitterly.” How long has it been since you wept over your sins? The Israelite men made a _____ that very day to separate from the families they took from the idolatrous nations. Repentance demands that we sacrifice _____ things that we may have loved or held dear. We give up our sins because they are against God’s ways and offend God.

We need to be like the people of Ephesus in their _____ days. When they saw the _____ of Jesus Christ, they saw the error of witchcraft and sorcery. **Read Acts 19:18-19.** When you become a Christian, you must _____ the sinful world behind.

Sometimes Christians grow _____ of well doing and they just need encouragement and revival. They need to renew their faith, restore their love, and get busy serving the Lord. We don’t know what happened to Timothy, but it seems he began to be timid and fearful and then he faltered in his _____ to God. Paul wrote to him, “For this reason I remind you to _____ afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands” (2 Timothy 1:6). We don’t know what the gift Timothy possessed was, but he wasn’t _____ it as he ought to. We also recall another minister who wasn’t doing his job. Paul wrote, “Say to Archippus, ‘Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it’” (Colossians 4:17). Are you fulfilling your ministry? Are you doing what God wants you to do?

Third, revival insists that we _____ to Christ. The Lord Jesus, in Luke 15, tells the story of a young, Jewish man who wanted to live on his own terms and for his own _____. He got his father to give him his share of his inheritance early and then he went off to a far country. He wasted his inheritance on reckless and immoral living. It didn’t work well for him. Sin never does. A famine came upon that country and he ended up alone, broke, friendless, and ashamed of himself. He decided to come home to his father, but he felt unworthy to be called his father’s son. The father graciously welcomed him, embraced him, kissed him, dressed him in the best robe, and celebrated with a feast. The father said, “‘for this son of mine was _____ and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:24).

Many have left the church to pursue their own _____. May I ask, “How’s it working for you?” Are you _____ to God? Will God hear really your prayers at this point? Are you _____ in your soul? Is your family closer to God since you made this decision? We live in a _____, “me-first” society that separates families. We must turn our _____ back to God and back to the spiritual needs of our families.

If you leave the Lord, you may lead your _____ to leave as well. But, if you draw close and stand with the Lord, you will lead others to stand _____ with the Lord as well. If you’re spiritually asleep, you need to _____ and look to Jesus who bore the cross for you. If you’re complaining, you need to look at the cross and _____. If you’ve become

apathetic, you need to remember what the Lord sacrificed for you. If you're flirting with sin, you need to look at the cross and remember what sin causes. If you're sluggish in your faith and service to God, you need to look up at the cross and get involved with the Lord and His church!

Fourth, revival will lead to _____. Each day calls us to renew our faith and commitment to Christ. Luke 9:23 calls us to take up our crosses _____. Don't tell me what you did in the past. What are you doing for the Lord _____? **Read Romans 12:1-2.** First Corinthians 15:58 reminds us, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in _____ in the Lord." What we do for the Lord matters. We must remain _____ in our efforts to do good and to preach the gospel. There is still much to do. Paul urges us, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will _____ if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do _____ to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 6:9-10).

Let's get busy! If all the sleeping folk will _____ up, and all the lukewarm folk will _____ up, and all the discouraged folk will _____ up, and all the depressed folk will _____ up, and all the wicked folk will straighten up, and all the lazy folk, will _____ up, and all the immature folk will _____ up, and all the dry bones will shake up, and all the Christian soldiers will _____ up, then we can stand strong for God and be revived!

What about you? Are you in a spiritual _____? Have you wandered away from the Lord Jesus and become distracted by this world and forgotten your _____? Are you worshiping regularly at _____? Do you _____ your Bible regularly? How's your _____ life? Are you saying _____ to sinful behaviors? While we cannot _____ our salvation, God expects us to live godly lives that demonstrate our faith and love.

I hope you haven't become like the Ephesian Christians who "left" their "first love." When a person wanders away from God, like the prodigal son, he _____ more than he thinks. When a person wanders away from God, he loses the grace of God, the ear of God in prayer, and the _____ of God for the hereafter. He loses the _____ of brothers and sisters at church. He loses the joy and the hope found in Christ Jesus. One day lost and alone without God is one day too many. All of us need God in our lives!

God is waiting for you; He hasn't moved or left you. You may have left Him. But He wants you to come _____. When people sin, they _____ themselves from God and His grace. To get back in God's favor, you must place your _____ in Jesus Christ; you must _____ of your sins; you must _____ the Lord Jesus to be the Son of God; and you must be _____ into Christ. Peter told the guilty souls at Pentecost, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). If you lovingly _____, just as these people did, God will graciously forgive you just as He did them. Why not do just as they have done? Why not obey the Lord today?