

The Road to Spiritual Recovery

Rev. 2:5

Introduction:

- A. Ephesus had become a sick church.
 - 1. Not because of inactivity. (“labor..patience”).
 - 2. Not because of softness. (“cannot bear those...”“tested those who say...apostles”)
-- Has apparently heeded Paul’s warning. (Acts 20:28-31)
 - 3. Not because of weariness. (v. 3)
 - 4. But because of decreasing love. (v. 4).
- B. Ephesus given road to spiritual recovery with three milestones.
 - 1. This road must be taken by membership of sick churches.
 - 2. This road must be taken by sick individual Christians.

Discussion:

I. “Remember...”

- A. The *scriptures* that motivated you in the past. (Jude 17; 2 Tim. 3:14,15).
 - 1. Those that tell of the Savior’s love for you. (Rom. 5:8).
 - 2. Those that tell of the Savior’s suffering for you.
 - 3. Those that tell of the Savior’s salvation of you.
 - 4. Those that tell of the Savior’s expectations of you. (cf. 2 Pet. 1:5-15)
- B. The *sins* from which you were cleansed. (2 Pet. 1:9).
 - 1. Remember the mud hole from which you were rescued. (2 Pet. 2:22).
 - 2. Remember the awful sins that were taken away. (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- C. The *sacrifices* that you made for your faith. (Heb. 10:32-35).
- D. The *service* that you rendered for Christ.
- E. The *sincerity* that you felt and showed in the beginning.
 - 1. That made salvation, service and sacrifice a joy.
 - 2. That made love for Christ and brethren easy.

II. “Repent”

- A. Repentance is basically a change of mind. (cf. Matt. 21:28,29 KJV).
 - 1. A change of mind away from sin. (Heb. 6:1; Acts 8:22)
 - 2. A change of mind toward God. (Acts 20:21).
- B. Repentance is not what many think it is. (2 Cor. 7:9-10)
 - 1. It is not sorrow - sorrow precedes it.
 - 2. It is not reform - reform follows it.
 - 3. It is change of heart prompted by godly sorrow and produces reform.
- C. Repentance is necessary for all sinners.
 - 1. Alien sinners. (Acts 2:38).
 - 2. Sinning brethren. (Acts 8:22).

III. Reform (“do the first works”).

- A. One must produce the fruits of repentance. (Matt. 3:8; Acts 26:20).
 - 1. A reformed attitude - note Prodigal Son’s attitude before and after. (Luke 16:12-21)
 - 2. A reformed life.
- B. One must not insult grace of God by continuing in sin. (Rom. 6:1; Heb. 10:26-29).

Conclusion:

- A. If you have become spiritually sick, the road back is simple.
- B. Why not begin that road to recovery today.