

## REVIVED, RESTORED CHURCHES

By: Dr. Hal Webb. Evangelist

*"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, will and heal their land." II Chron. 7:14.*

This is one of many promising verses in the Word of God. One look at the world's conditions cries out for man to repent of his sin and return to God. Sin is rampant, more accepted, and literally floods and controls the minds of more people than ever. Talk about an epidemic, we are in the midst of one. The tragedy is worsened by the many churches and religions that have no clue what is going on, and how to correct it. Our Creator in the heavens above has the answer, and summed it up well in our study verse today. Humble hearts, bathed in prayer, seeking God, and turning from their wicked ways is the answer to the sin problems of our world. The Bible like a shining beacon, points the way to victory. Our nation and especially its churches need a genuine revival, and return to God. In this different study sermon I am presenting three important steps toward the revival America needs when it comes to its churches and their spiritual downfall. (1). The Causes:

(2). The Road Back: (3). Future Prevention:  
This sermon is presented in more of an outline form, good for your personal study and even church consideration.

### **FIRST: THE CAUSES OF CHURCH FAILURE:**

**(1). Compromised Association:** Joining groups, that have a weak standing, and major in the wrong things will always weaken a church.

**(2). Watered Down Preaching:** Failure to obey the strong commands of the Bible, but belief in easy behaviorism. Popular messages

that fail to bring conviction, and obedient living to members. Cowards in the pulpit allow pollution in the pew.

**(3). Weakened Standards:** Allowing weakness and sin always destroys the testimony of Christian individuals, and their church. Compromise always leads to failure and coldness among believers.

**(4). Contemptible Music:** The rape of Christ-honoring music by today's competing, compromising musicians, using cheap words and shallow messages, battles the hymnbook. Jungle drums and screaming guitars cheapen the faith, as they copy the sounds and movements of the world. The church is commanded to love not the world nor pattern after it. Fleshly music encourages cheap living.

**(5). Congregational Battles:** If a Christian church can't get along, how can we expect the world to do right? Church squabbles have ruined many a place of worship. Members shooting each other in the foot certainly will cripple the house of God.

**(6). Pastoral Inconsistencies:** Many pastors can be bribed, wrongly influenced, over worked, misrepresented, unloved, and disobeyed, until they become nervous wrecks of disorganized service to the church. Some can be lazy, cowardly failures, in their own lives of service. Actions will then begin to speak louder than words, and church confusion results..

**(7). Death Of Dedication:** A lack of dedication leads to skipped services, weak and sloppy living, unfaithful tithing, and bad example to others. We need to get back on our knees, and remember the promises we have made to God.

**(8). Pace Of Today's Living:** Most believers have simply made themselves too busy, too occupied with worldly things, and too saddled with life's man made priorities. We are too self employed in what we consider important, to take proper steps to serve the Lord daily Many are like hamsters in their exercise cage,

running frantically all day from dawn til dark.

**(9). Loss Of Vision.** Have we forgotten why Christ established the church? It was not for church suppers and entertainment but to reach out to the lost and dying. Without vision...who cares? The church needs revival desperately.

**NEXT: CONSIDER THE ROAD BACK:**

Please look up, look up, **look up**, and study these verses that speak of how we can reinstate churches back to Godly representation of our great God.

**(1)' Prevailing prayer: Matt. 7:7&8.**

He promises if we ask and seek.

**(2). Strong Biblical Preaching: Isa. 58:1.**

Cry Aloud, warn of transgression.

**(3). Restore Bible Standards: Amos 5:15.**

What does the Bible require?

**(4) Return To Good Music: Psm. 19:14.**

Only that which glorifies and pleases God.

**(5) Repair Relationships: Matt 5:24.**

Friendship and forgiveness for all.

**(6) Confession Of Sin: I John 1:9.**

Come totally clean with God.

**(7) Redefine Purpose: John 15:16.**

Glorify Him in all that we do.

**(8). Adjust Priorities: Matt. 6:33.**

Put worship and service first.

**(9). Restore Vision: Jer.33:3.**

Refocus on the lost around you.

It will take time to make the above corrections, but please consider each verse as you look it up, and make sure you are following it's teaching. They are each the voice of our God speaking His commands to His people. Our response will be a large part of our judgment

someday, at the feet of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**LASTLY: FUTURE PREVENTION**

There are a number of things we can do to prevent falling back into our same indifferent rut, and cause further grief.

(1). Daily Diligent Assessment: Psm. 51:18.  
Check on your life constantly.

(2). Faithful Prayer Emphasis: I Thess. 5:17.  
Increase time spent in prayer.

(3). Total Love For Christ: Mark 12:30.  
Love Christ with heart, soul, and mind.

(4). Daily Obedient Discipline: Rom. 12:2.  
Conforming daily to Gods will.

(5). Complete Surrender: Rom. 12:1.  
Hold nothing back from God.

(6). Submission To Others: Eph. 5:21.  
Love and makeup with everyone.

(7). Pursuit Of Holy Things: I Pet. 1:16.  
Refuse all evil, love all that's good.

(8). Fearless, Faithful Preaching: II Cor. 4:2.  
Speak right, true, and boldly all the truth.

(9). Live To Please Christ: II Tim. 2:4.  
Please our Lord in all things.

(10). Pursue Lost Souls: Prov. 11:30  
Wise daily witness in some way.

(11). Busy In Service: I Cor. 15:58.  
Present and accounted for at church.

(12). Keep Looking Up: Luke 21:28.  
Expect His return at any moment.

Follow these truths and you will have a great part in stirring revival in your church.

