

## Revelation Series

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Outline/Power Point Pastor Gangwer

### The Loss of Greatness – Part II

**Intro:** As we look at the flip side of 'Marks of Greatness', we must also realize that we can lose our greatness in compromising with the world and catering to our flesh. This church at Ephesus had a great beginning and she has reached a crossroad in her existence. Would she choose to continue to be great or would she reject the counsel of the Lord and die a slow spiritual death of irrelevance and ineffectiveness? It is the same question every church and Believer must ask themselves at some point in their lives.

We will continue looking at 5 things that we as a church, and as Believers, that need to be maintained if we ever hope to attain to and or hold onto greatness. We have already looked at the first thing being that, '**Greatness requires a teachable spirit – Revelation 2:4.**'

#### II. Greatness requires \_\_\_\_\_ – (fallen) – Revelation 2:5.

- A. The word 'remember' is in the perfect tense, active voice & imperative mood.
  1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is laid out for these Believers whom Christ wants them to remember what once was.
  2. The former \_\_\_\_\_ that is presently waning and in danger of losing their fellowship with Christ.
- B. The word 'fallen' means to fall from a position, fall from a thing, or to become \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. The rebuke is laid out in verse four – Christ sees a serious problem \_\_\_\_\_ right around the corner.
  2. Will they be honest and admit they are \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. "You used to have a great testimony; however that testimony is slipping away."
  4. They were at a \_\_\_\_\_ and have to make a decision to return to greatness or continue to decline.
- C. The admonition to 'remember' was a critical bit of \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. They had \_\_\_\_\_ *what* it was that made them great in the first place.
  2. They had forgotten *who* it was that made them great.
  3. It was to be an \_\_\_\_\_ of their present direction in which they desperately needed to be honest with themselves. (They were in a spiritual state of dereliction.)
  4. They, as any Believers, need to \_\_\_\_ fall under the conviction of the Word of God on a regular basis.
    - a. They were way off the mark and they were being called out for it. (Galatians 3:1)
    - b. We may \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, but God is never deceived. (Galatians 6:7)
- D. To maintain greatness we need to possess a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit and to be honest with ourselves.
  1. Greatness does not run from the truth nor does it try to change the truth.
  2. Greatness exalts the truth because it sets us free. (John 8:32)
  3. Being mediocre is nothing to \_\_\_\_\_ about; in fact it sickens the Lord. (Revelation 3:16)

### III. Greatness requires \_\_\_\_\_ - (repent) - Revelation 5.

- A. 'Repent' is in the Aorist tense, active voice and imperative mood.
- B. This is not so much about crocodile tears, but a serious \_\_\_\_\_ to change. (Isaiah 54:15)
  - 1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to put those things in place that are necessary to facilitate change.
  - 2. This word 'repent' is about becoming a better person.
- C. If we are genuinely saved and there is something amiss that doesn't please the Lord, He'll point it out!
  - 1. The fact is that there is always a \_\_\_\_\_ for change in our lives.
  - 2. Can you use more patience? Can we use more wisdom or knowledge? Do we need more tender-heartedness? We all need more godliness in our hearts and lives.
- D. The Christian life is a lifelong \_\_\_\_\_ to change via the Holy Spirit & the Word of God. (Gal. 5:17-26)

### IV. Greatness requires mastering the \_\_\_\_\_ - (do) - Revelation 5.

- A. Mastering the basics has become a \_\_\_\_\_ with so many Believers and churches.
  - 1. Paul noted it was a problem back in his day - Hebrews 5:12 - 14; I Corinthians 3:1 - 4; I Peter 2:2.
  - 2. So many are tossing out what has over the centuries been God's will, tested, tried and true.
  - 3. The godless get it so wrong (Isaiah 5:20 - 23) and many Believers aren't far behind.
  - 4. There is a great \_\_\_\_\_ of abandoning the true and proven for what is new & contemporary.
    - a. Music whose primary purpose is to attract the world and carnal Christian.
    - b. Contemporary services to compete with the world.
    - c. No pressure, no invitation or weak ones at best so as to not offend.
    - d. Our endeavors are not to be world focused, but Christ centered - I Corinthians 10:31.
    - e. And this is difficult to do if what we do is \_\_\_\_\_ by the world - Psalm 1:1-6.
- B. Our problem today is an age old problem which is getting away from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith. (Jude 3)
  - 1. Successful athletes and teams are those who continually work on the basics.
  - 2. Once the basics are mastered, then they can work on the fancy stuff when it is needed.
  - 3. Those individuals who major on the fancy stuff forgetting the basics usually don't last long.
- C. We don't need the rock beat, but we do need the solid \_\_\_\_\_ - Deuteronomy 32:4; I Cor. 10:1-14.
- D. Want to hold on to greatness? Then be ready to make some changes (repent).
  - 1. Spiritually getting our life together.
  - 2. Not allowing ourselves to get distracted or sidetracked with what is new and fancy.
  - 3. Jeremiah 6:16 - **Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.**
  - 4. So many churches and Believers have refused the wise counsel of the Lord, as they responded then, so they respond even today - "But they said, we will not walk therein."