

The “3 Rs Concept” for Effective Christian Living

Regrets, Rejections, Reminders, Reform, and a Renewed Mind Are On the Access Road to the City of Restoration

The City of Restoration is God’s dwelling place.

Revelation 21:2-4, “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

God and His restored creation make a great team.

The apostle Peter spoke of the coming “times of restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21).

The word restoration implies “a return to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition, or the restitution of something taken away or lost” (Dictionary.com).

Just what is this prediction about?

Peter was speaking of a future time when things would be restored to their original state. The apostle explained that God had spoken this prophecy “by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” and that Jesus would remain in heaven until it was time for this event to unfold over a specific time frame. Christ’s return and the times of restoration are thus linked together.

If you know Jesus as your personal Savior, you will dwell in the city of restoration and it will be an eternal home. Heaven is real with real people, the real God and His real One and Only Son, Jesus. God’s Spirit will tabernacle with the saints forever.

As we go through this life we are living, Christians are traveling on the road toward their City of Restoration.

Interstate Highways have few stop signs or red lights and will get you to your destination quicker in most cases. But, less scenery and enjoyment will be experienced on the Interstate Highway.

The access roads have red lights, stop signs, and slower traffic. For the Christian who enjoys life, the access road to heaven is the way to go.

- 1. Meeting people; encouraging people.***
- 2. Progressing to the destination with joy in lieu of strain and stress.***
- 3. Inviting others to go along with you on your journey.***
- 4. Enjoying family, friends, and God's creation.***

Regrets—There will be some regrets and problems/dilemmas along the way.

- Storms = dark days with some loss of sight of your destination.***
- Travel difficulties/slower traffic than anticipated***
- Missed opportunities to see the rainbow, to hear the birds singing, to see God's hand in the dilemma.***

REGRETS:

- 1. As how you handled the dark days along the way.***
- 2. The words stated and the thoughts acted out as you waited for the traffic accident to be cleared out of the way.***
- 3. Failing to see the rainbow (the good) coming out of the clouds during the storms of life; failing to see God's love and understanding coming out of the family who needed your help in changing the tire in the storm.***

“And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow.” Gilbert K. Chesterton

“It's a good thing that when God created the rainbow he didn't consult a decorator or he would still be picking colors.” Sam Levenson

It is up to YOU to minimize regrets in YOUR life.

One regret that can turn into an opportunity is to help someone reduce their regrets by encouraging them to change their attitude from gloom to hope. JESUS IN YOU CAN DO THAT!

Can you think of one regret you have been carrying and eliminate it by a telephone call or an action?

Regrets will be along the access road to your final destination...but, doing something for someone else, tackling a problem with a resolve to accomplish the goal you have missed in the past, and encouraging a friend and/or family member will help you reduce the stress of a past regret.

Today's world is missing the art of friendship, fellowship, and forgiveness.

Minimize your regrets:

10 ways to minimize your regrets at the end of your life:

1. ***Family First:*** Possibly the most common regret at the end of a life is, "I didn't spend enough time with my family."
2. ***Faith:*** Life has a far greater purpose beyond our human knowledge. "All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen." – Ralph Waldo Emerson. Faith gives you the inner peace in knowing that all is not in vain.
3. ***Color Outside the Lines:*** As soon as our life begins, society creates boxes within which we're supposed to live. Order is certainly vital to a prosperous people. However, dare to color your life outside of pre-determined boxes. Step out of comfort zones. As the saying goes, dance as if nobody is looking. Note: This does not mean not following God's principles and directions.
4. ***The Power of Vision:*** Our actions always have consequences, and those can be both positive and negative. A wise man has the ability to visualize outcomes before they occur. Never make decisions from a self-centered perspective. The Holy Spirit gives discernment to the Christian who asks for help. ***In its simplest definition, discernment is nothing more than the ability to decide between truth and error, right and wrong.*** Discernment is the process of making careful distinctions in our thinking about truth. Although discernment is engrained in the human brain (thinking process), only the Christian has the Spirit of God within him to make right choices at the right time. When one reaches the age of accountability, he must make a choice to humble himself and yield to God's way (the truth) or take on the world's bombardment of choices by his own choosing. He is on his own without the Spirit of God in him.
5. ***Use Your Gifts:*** Every human being has a unique set of gifts designed to complement and enhance this creation. Use your gifts to the best of your ability and in the way that they were created. Nurture and aggressively display the gifts that have been loaned to you for the course of your life. Use them to bring glory to the One who gave them to you.

6. **Loose Lips Sink Ships:** *We all have those memories that make us cringe. The times we lost control and our mouths spewed out venom we didn't know we possessed. Hold your tongue and think before you speak. Do your best to redeem yourself with those you have hurt in the past. Your soul will rest much easier at night.*
7. **Take Care of Yourself:** *We often take our health for granted. It usually takes a major scare to open us up to a healthier lifestyle. Sometimes the warning never comes.*
8. **The Bucket List:** *We all have dreams and aspirations. Create a list of the things you wish to accomplish in this life. Some will be easy and some difficult, but none are impossible. Document these moments and live every second of them to the fullest.*
9. **Random Kindness:** *When we spread joy our souls glow bright and beautiful. Our spiritual well-being is critical to peace in our heart.*
10. **Forgiveness:** *Release the hurt that lies within you. Grudges you continue to carry will only leave you jaded and loaded with bitterness. Forgive those who have hurt you and let that pain go. Seek forgiveness from those you've wronged. In the end, life boils down to forgiveness. Nothing else matters.*

You will have regrets and rejection from others along the ROAD TO RESTORATION.

“Sometimes the strongest people are the ones who love beyond all faults, cry behind closed doors, and fight battles that nobody knows about.”

Renewing one's mind can only be found by communicating with God.

When you realize the world is not necessarily on your side, then you will understand it is up to you to stop and enjoy God's creation along the ROAD to THE CITY OF RESTORATION.

