

## THE GOOD HABIT OF RETURNING HOME TO GOD ! Kahu Billy Mitchell June 5, 2022

Zechariah 1:3-4b, 6b NIV <sup>3</sup>Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: **'Return to me,' 'and I will return to you, ...'**<sup>4</sup>Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. <sup>6b</sup> "Then they repented and said, 'The Lord Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.'" James 4:8a,10, 7 NIV <sup>8</sup>Come near to God and he will come near to you . . . <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from YOU.

**What's Waiting for You on Your Return** Luke 15:21-24 NIV <sup>21</sup>"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.<sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.<sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

### "WAYS TO RETURN TO THE LORD!"

**I. DON'T GO ASTRAY TOO FAR!** Psalms 119:67, 71 NASB <sup>67</sup> Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. <sup>71</sup> It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes. Hebrews 2:1-3 NIV We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. <sup>2</sup>For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, <sup>3</sup>how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. Hebrews 12:2a NIV1983 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus!

**II. REPENT** Acts 3:19 NIV Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the LORD! (Regenerate) Ezekiel 18:31a-32 NIV <sup>31</sup>Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, . . . ? <sup>32</sup>**For I take no PLEASURE in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!**

**III. THE WORD ! (notes on Zechariah 1:5-6)** The words God has spoken through his prophets a century earlier, before the captivity, also applied to Zechariah's generation, and they are still relevant for us. Because God's word endures, we must read, study, and apply what he has preserved for us in scripture. Learn the lessons revealed in God's word so you don't have to repeat the mistakes of others! **(notes Revelation 14:4)** To remain spiritually pure means to resist the seductions and idolatries of the present world— power, wealth, and sexual immorality. To do so requires daily application of god's word, for it has a purifying effect on the mind and heart. It requires great resolution to live for Christ and not give in to these temptations. 2 Timothy 2:15 NIV <sup>15</sup>Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. **Notes :** Because God will examine the kind of workers we have been for him, **we should build our lives on his Word and build his Word into our lives.** The Bible alone tells us how to live for him and serve him. Consistently and **diligently study God's Word so that you will not be lulled into neglecting God and your true purpose for living.**  
\*all Notes from NIV Life Application Study Bible

**IV. PRAYER** Ephesians 6:18-20 NIV <sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

**V. COMING TO "LIVE" CHURCH"** Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>**not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,** but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**RETURN TO GOD AND HE WILL RETURN TO YOU! AMENE!**