

December 30, 2018

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**Today's New Year Message:** Facing A New Year When Life Overwhelms

Romans 13:11, 12 "This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up... The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes and put on the shining armor of right living."

Hebrews 6:1 "So let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity..."

**Application:** Make this new year of 2019 a year of taking \_\_\_\_\_, putting Christ first.

Proverbs 17:24 "An intelligent person aims at wise actions but a fool starts off in many directions."

⇒ "Aims" - you have a \_\_\_\_\_, a goal

### 1. Wake Up And Seen the \_\_\_\_\_ - Joel 1:1-4, 13-15, 2:1,2a

◆ "Locusts" - chewing, swarming, crawling, finally consuming; a total, complete ruin

◆ **Truth:** We all must have a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ in ourselves for God's work

◆ Ephesians 4:17-20, 5:3, 5, 6, 12, 14

### 2. Get Moving Now And \_\_\_\_\_ To God—Joel 2:12, 13, 17

⇒ Time is very limited, it is running out for us, so God says "Even \_\_\_\_\_ return to Me..."

⇒ Don't Wait To Begin: Ecclesiastes 11:4 "If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done."

⇒ "S.M.A.R.T." Goals— \_\_\_\_\_ ... Motivational... Attainable... Relevant... Trackable

⇒ When the "Day of the Lord" happens, sin will bring \_\_\_\_\_ judgement.

### 3. Four Results of Returning to God

1) A rejoicing attitude—only returning to God and experiencing God's forgiveness will bring us joy

Joel 2:21, 23

Psalm 37:3, 4

"**God made us:** invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirit's were designed to feed on." ~C. S. Lewis

2) Restoration—NOT Ruin — Joel 2:25 "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten..."

3) A Replacement For Shame—Joel 2:26, 27

**Note:** God's blessings are only promised to those who fully follow Him.

4) A Revival That's Real—Joel 2:28, 30, 31, 32

**The Urgency**—To not put this off—But to Act Now.