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“IF I COULD TURN BACK TIME”

Cher, of “Sonny & Cher” fame is seventy-six years old as of this writing. From one perspective it could be argued that she is the personification of her song “If I Could Turn Back Time”. That song came out in the late 1980’s, and it would seem that the over \$750,000.00 that she has spent on plastic surgery over the years might be an attempt to “turn back time”. Turn back time, not likely, as Solomon in Ecclesiastes nine and verse eleven noted, “...time and chance overtake them all.”

Who wouldn’t want to “turn back time”? Consider what is found in the lyrics of the forementioned song. “I don’t know why I did the things I did. I don’t know why I said the things I said. Pride’s like a knife, it can cut deep inside. Words are like weapons, they wound sometimes. I didn’t really mean to hurt you...” Who can’t relate to what is expressed above? Try as one might, once something is said it is pretty difficult to retract. Solomon in the book of Proverbs spent considerable time noting the power of the tongue and the caution that must be put in place when using it. “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat of its fruit.*” (18:21)

Samson was one who wanted to turn back time. His choices over a period of time cost him greatly. Ultimately, his eyes were gouged out by the loathsome Philistines and he was set to work as a grinder in the prison. The Philistines mocked unmercifully the once strong vibrant man, who was now lacking strength and was their “prized” prisoner (see Judges 16:21-27). However, after some time had lapsed, Samson was able to “turn back time”

when he appealed to God, as he cried out “*O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once...*” God provided Samson the strength to push the pillars down, which brought the temple of Philistines down killing himself as well as more Philistines than he previously had.

“*Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first...*” Sounds like those in the church in Ephesus were being told they could if they so desired, in a sense “turn back time” as seen in Revelation 2:5. As seen in 1Kings 19, Elijah confessed to God “*I have been very zealous for the Lord God...*”. God then directed him to “turn back time”; to embrace that zeal and drive once again, for he wasn’t alone as he had thought.

After Peter denied Christ, three times, don’t you think he would have longed to “turn back time”? It is noted that when the third denial came, the rooster crowed, and Luke records the following, “*And the Lord turned and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, ‘Before a cock crows today, you will deny Me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.*” (22:61-62). Can you imagine how Peter must have felt? Now think about it, is it possible that we may have in a sense denied Christ in either word or deed and need to “turn back time”? As long as there is life there is hope. Turn back time and do the deeds you did at first. (wbe)