

ARE WE SEEING
WORLD
WIDE
REVIVAL?

RAY BRUBAKER

ARE WE SEEING WORLD WIDE REVIVAL?

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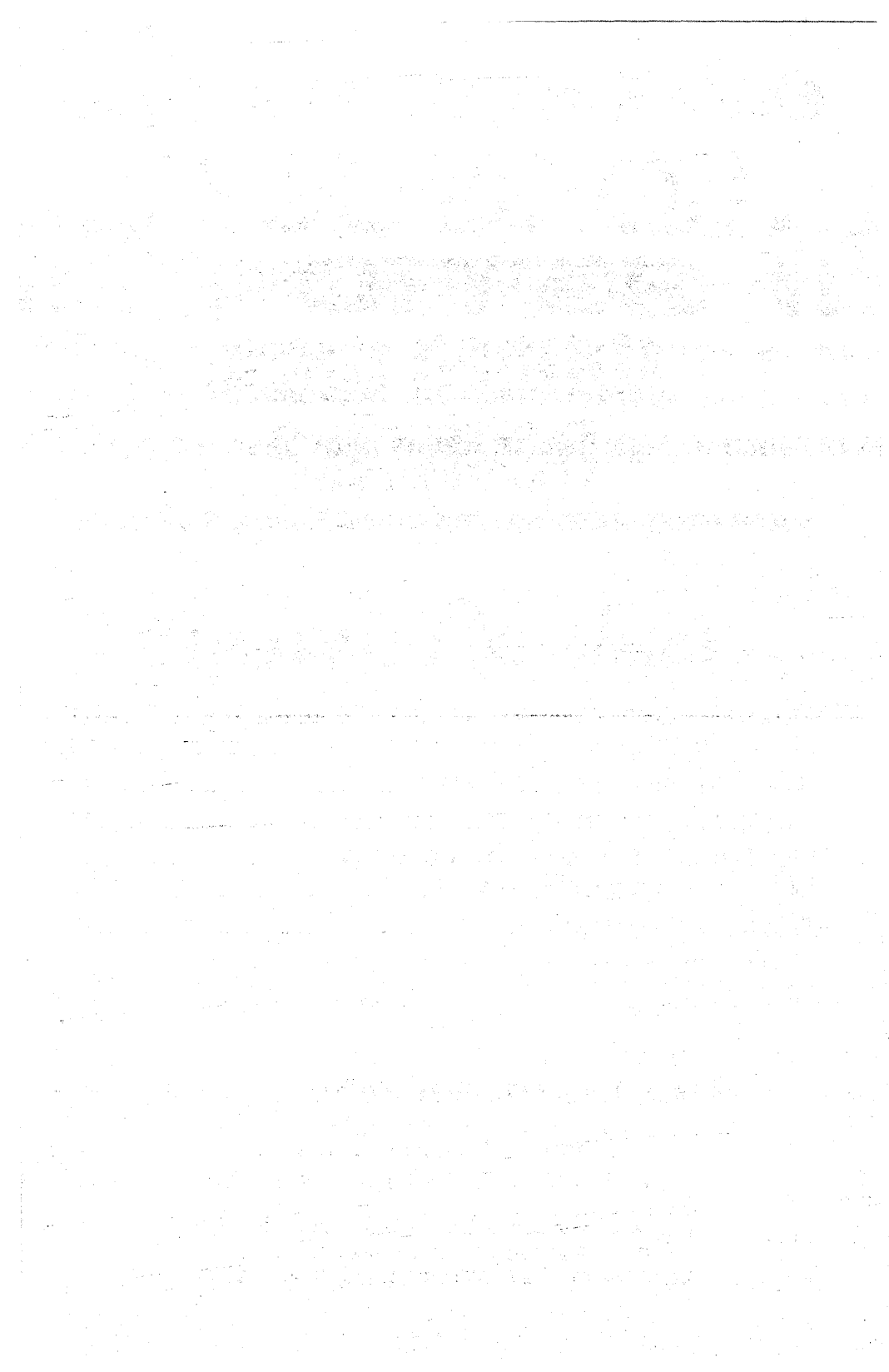
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GOD'S NEWS ..BEHIND THE NEWS

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are we seeing revival today?

Recently one of our news magazines carried a special report on the subject of RENEWAL for U.S.Churches. (U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Apr. 11, '77)

Among other things it noted the rapid growth of prayer and Bible study groups across the United States which now attracts one out of every five Americans. There's likewise a boom in religious books, and it is noted: "Some churchmen see hope not only for survival but for another 'Great Awakening' of the kind that came to America in the eighteenth century."

The question we might ask is, ARE WE SEEING REVIVAL TODAY? Are we witnessing genuine rebirth of souls to Christ around the world? Is there a spiritual awakening taking place today?

It may depend on whom you ask as to whether these are days of revival. We're going to hear some reports from around the world as we make an indepth study on the subject--Are we seeing revival today?

One of the clearest evidences of the moving of God's spirit abroad has been in Southeast Asia. Stanley Mooneyham has stated: "The sovereign Spirit of God is sending revival that seems to add another Asian chapter to the Acts of the Apostles."

The following report on revival in Southeast Asia, particularly among youth, is from LeRoy Eims of the Navigators:

"The thing that I find tremendously interesting in these trips that I take overseas is the way that God is touching lives of so many of the young people of Asia. Now the thing that is fascinating is to see them...in their current mood...they are rejecting the old gods. They are totally turning away from the gods of their granddads and grandmothers and their Moms and Dads. They are looking. There is a vacuum. And when we move in with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we find a tremendous interest."

• Bob Bowman gives us this information on the revival taking place in South Korea:

"South Korea, I think without doubt, has probably the fastest growing church in the world today. Now there may be others that are growing equally fast, but the fact that South Korea is growing so rapidly and so many people are coming to the Lord in that country, comes from the fact that the South Korean church is a praying church. At four o'clock in the morning I've been awakened by the sound of church bells over the city of Seoul. I know that those church bells are ringing not only in the city of Seoul, but all over South Korea, and when those church bells begin to ring at 4:00 a.m. in South Korea, I know that ten per cent of the total body of Christ in South Korea is on its way to the church for an hour of prayer. Every single morning of the year in South Korea, 400,000 Christians are at prayer in that country. I think the fact that it is such a grow-

ing church bespeaks the fact that prayer is where it all is and where it starts. It's not works, not building huge buildings or anything else, but it's prayer and seeking the face of God."

For a look at China, Dr. Eugene Stockwell quotes K.H.Ding, President of Nanking Theological Seminary, that God is at work there:

"Yes, more people are becoming Christians and taking the responsibility of their faith. It is happening in China. 'Will Christianity disappear in China?' someone asked. The answer is, 'No, there will always be people who will be asking the ultimate questions hard up against them and Christianity will be there.'"

In India, many areas have never been reached. Theodore Williams comments on some main objections there:

"There are many areas in India where people have never heard the Gospel and foreign missionaries are not allowed to go to some places. The Indian church and Indian Christians never have information about these places. So there was the need to challenge the church on the one hand, and provide a channel to send Indian young people to the remote areas on the other hand. We are committed definitely to a church planting ministry and we want to see small groups of believers left behind."

What about Europe? Lars Doombach, European director of Living Bibles, International, gives a background to what is occurring there:

"Great blessings are happening. The young people are really doing something and reaching out to other young people with the message. In the field of evangelism--in Germany, for example, and in Holland--you see a lot of various youth groups having a real outreach. Then going further south, I would like to mention what is happening in Portugal and Spain. Freedom has really grown for the Christians and, believe it or not, during the past two or three years, it has been possible to have religious broadcasting and today you can distribute Christian literature in the streets and in the stores. You can have quite a few meetings. So Spain is a field that's really opening up after having been closed for years and years."

A hotbed of strife has been Northern Ireland. Ian Paisley comments on the spiritual climate as he sees it:

"There are signs of revival. Prayer meetings are well attended. There seems to be an intensity among God's people to pray, and I think there are times of refreshing from the presence of God."

What about Scotland? Harvey Thomas interviewed Wallace Kirkland, Director of the Maranatha Center there, who had this to say:

"I believe that we are on the brink of a breakthrough that is quite unprecedented. Men and women are beginning to realize that the Holy Spirit is real...a real person...and is someone as willing and able as God the Father Himself, ready to pour out the blessing. More willing to do that than we are to receive it."

We are seeing revival that reaches into the South American jungle. Here's a report from HCJB of the gospel now reaching Indians of the Andes mountain area:

"I praise God for the evidence I see constantly of the fact that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Also the fact that those who 'sow in tears reap in joy.' For many years people worked among the Quechua Indians of the high Andes on the west coast of South America. They didn't see much result. In recent years all of that has changed. We used to talk about conversions of ones or twos and now they are coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ by the thousands and it is great to see the transforming and uplifting power of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank God with us for the work of the gospel among the Quechua Indians of the high Andes in South America."

Louis Palau tells of his goal of reaching all of South America for Christ:

"Of course, our ultimate dream and goal is that every Spanish speaking person will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Secondly, we are hoping that this will encourage Christians in all these 22 Spanish speaking countries to become more involved in evangelism, to believe God for great things, to expect great things from God, to launch out and do big things for the Lord. Thirdly, we hope that it will open the doors more than ever in the Spanish speaking countries to the preaching of the gospel and that this will encourage young men and women and pastors to just launch out like never before into a life of holiness and a desire to evangelize their country before the Lord returns or before some of these countries fall into some extremist leftist hands."

But what about the United States? Don Roper provides information on a Harris Poll on revival in America:

"Americans yearn for less war, violence, unemployment, tension and discrimination against minorities, and 81% would like to see a revival of religious faith. However, countering these hopes is a distinct mood of pessimism. Harris's survey showed that 47% of those who yearned for a religious revival did not think it would take place in their lifetime. Even the proportion of those hoping for revival has been decreasing since 1968. People of faith may hear in this survey the old proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.'"

The question some ask is, What scriptures indicate that we are to expect revival in our day?

The answer often given is the promised outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh predicted by Joel for the last days.

There have been those who have seen this awakening coming. Outstanding theologians such as Alexander Whyte have said: "I may not live to see it, but the day will come when there will be a great revival in the whole world."

Some point to the stirring among various denominations to assert that we are witnessing this revival now. There's a new awareness of the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Some

recognize a new warmth of praise, a desire to witness, a bold faith to believe God for miracles, and increased love for the souls of men as evidence that this revival is genuine.

Tom Zimmerman, chairman of a world conference meeting in London, summed up prospects for the future, and he sees that which is taking place to be a prelude to the return of Jesus Christ.

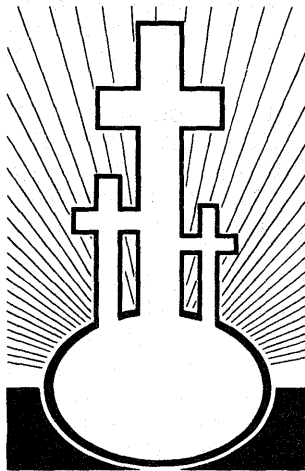
Indeed, the coming of our Lord is the believer's blessed hope. This may account for the revival we are seeing today, as Christians want to be ready to meet our Lord when He comes. Since we know not the day nor the hour, it behooves us to be ready. By coming to know Christ as our Saviour and Lord and then living for Him every day, we can be ready for His return.

J. Hudson Taylor, the great missionary founder of the China Inland Mission, declared that he saw revival as heralding the return of our Lord. Said Taylor: "I am convinced that there will be a great spiritual awakening which will usher in the Second Coming of the Lord."

The question we would leave with you today is, Are we seeing this revival now? And is this an indication that the coming of our blessed Lord is at hand?

If so, we need to be ready. By turning from sin to trust the Saviour, by trimming our lamps and letting our lights shine brightly, by allowing the Holy Spirit full control of our lives, we can experience revival that will keep us ready for Christ's coming.

For, remember, our Lord hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



ARE WE SEEING COUNTERFEIT REVIVAL

A prominent news magazine says, "Well over 30 million Americans, many of them members of established religions, are engaged in offbeat spiritual pursuits that range from studying horoscopes to worshipping the Devil." (U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, April 11, 1977)

Think of it.

According to a Gallup Poll one in five Americans has expressed a belief in astrology. And there are scores of other beliefs such as mysticism, transcendental meditation, yoga, and that which borders on the occult.

While there is a revival of Christianity, there is also an increased interest in alternative religions which also seem to be flourishing.

Some say that what we are seeing today might better be described as "evangelism" and not genuine revival.

As Dr. Alan Redpath comments: "We have seen in our time tremendous impact from evangelism, but I don't think that evangelism could ever be permanent unless it is accompanied by revival in the churches. Confession of sin, repentance, cleansing, deliverance and mighty Holy Spirit tidings of blessing are all symptoms that God is moving in revival. And I believe with all my heart that the time is ripe."

Is the time ripe for a genuine moving of the Holy Spirit? Are we seeing genuine revival today?

Dr. James A. Stewart, writing in the HERALD OF HIS COMING, notes: "It cannot be denied that there is a religious awakening on in America today. On the surface," he observes, "it seems encouraging, but in reality it is dangerous."

Are we seeing a counterfeit revival? we might ask.

Dr. Stewart once preached a message on what he called, "Hollywood Evangelism," which girded the globe. It was a protest against the shallow easy-believism that parades in the garb of hypocrisy.

Says Stewart: "A story with a religious slant will hit the front page. A religious jazzy song will be among the ten top tunes in the Hit Parade. The religious book is sure to be among the Best Sellers. Our evangelical Christians seem to be flattered when some ungodly outstanding figure of the world condescends to say something nice about the Gospel. We have reached such a low state of spirituality," he noted, "that we are excited when a prominent personality professes conversion and speaks our evangelical vocabulary, even though his life shows no evidence of the revolutionary change wrought by the Gospel of Christ."

Well, we praise the Lord for those who do evidence sincere and genuine conversion who are testifying to the grace of God

in bringing about their salvation. But their number is too few.

Dr. George Sweeting, President of Moody Bible Institute, writes: "Religion is very popular in our day. So many people say, 'I believe in God, I believe in Christ, and I believe in the Bible.' Sometimes the lives of such people do not correspond with their beliefs. Is this a saving faith or a false faith?" asks Dr. Sweeting.

As to the question, Are we seeing genuine revival today? we might quote TIME magazine which suggested that there may be as many as forty million evangelical Christians in America.

A Gallup Opinion Poll also found 94% of Americans questioned saying that they believe in God, compared with 88% in Italy, and 76% in the United Kingdom.

The NATIONAL OBSERVER comments: "While the born-again message still is being preached today and many are responding, the current surge in religious interest 'doesn't remotely compare' with the 'Great Awakening,' the revival of 1848, or the worldwide spiritual renewal that took place around 1905.

"For instance, in the resort community of Atlantic City, N.J., all except 50 adults became professing Christians; and a wave of 20,000 young people began volunteering to be missionaries."

The OBSERVER pointed out that "The greatest impact was in Wales where every church in some towns was packed from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. every night for a year." Crime became almost nonexistent in an 18-month period, and illegitimate births dropped 44% in 1906.

In one courtroom the judge interrupted a trial to lead the defendant to Christ, after which the prosecuting policeman and the jury joined in singing hymns.

Can we ever expect that to happen again?

When the Gallup Poll concluded that half of all Protestants and more than a third of all Americans say they have been "born again," you find some of us wondering if people really know the meaning of the expression.

I see where a commentator referred to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as a "born again" Moslem.

Born again?

If we were to match our own personal experience over against the Bible definition as to what it means to be born again, we might question whether or not we have had this really happen to us.

As in the natural realm, life precedes birth, could it be that some have experienced what Dr. Torrey calls "a quickening short of regeneration?" Indeed, something has happened to many who experience a good feeling--warmth, praise, as a result of an ecstatic or traumatic happening, but unless what we have received is founded upon the Word of God, we may lose it.

As the Apostle Peter notes, we are born again "by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever."

I once led a man to the Lord by quoting John 1:12-13 which is a favorite of many: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

This man gave definite indication of being saved for he believed the Word, and then prayed and invited Christ into his heart and life. Later I saw him and he indicated that he didn't feel saved, so I had to remind him again that his salvation rested on God's Word and not his feeling. If he had really invited Jesus into his life and found forgiveness for his sins, he could claim to be a child of God.

We are born again by receiving Christ in total acceptance of Him as Saviour and in acknowledgment of Him as Lord. Have you made such a total and complete surrender to the Saviour?

It's not sufficient to say your father and mother are Christians. You must personally and individually accept Christ. It's not enough to turn over a new leaf and say from now on I will live differently, but it is coming to receive new life. It's not sufficient to be baptized and join a church, as important as that may be, but to be born of the Spirit--born from above--born into God's family.

Then, when we're truly born again, there are five things that result from such an experience. Here they are very briefly:

(1) We do righteousness. I John 2:29 says: "If ye know that he (Jesus) is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him." If born again, we will want to live pure and holy like Jesus lived. We may fail often at first but as a child falls and picks itself up, so we ask the Lord to forgive us and help us and soon we will be walking straight and tall.

(2) In the second place, we love the brethren. Whereas once we loved the worldly crowd, now we love to be with the people of God. As John says: "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren." (I John 3:14a)

(3) A third result of being born again is that we have victory over the dominion and power of sin. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (practice) sin." (I John 3:9a)

(4) A fourth evidence of being born again--we have victory over the world.

Listen to this verse. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (I John 5:4)

(5) Finally, if you are born again, you are God's property and the devil has no right to you. As we read in I John 5:18, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

These characteristics are common to all who have been born again, and if lacking in our lives may indicate our failure to surrender and yield all to the Lord Jesus Christ.

General William Booth once predicted that this age would end in a superficial belief. He noted: "They will offer a Cross without reproach, a Gospel without Repentance, a Heaven without a Hell."

While we are seeing an upsurge of interest in religion, we must ask ourselves again, Are we seeing genuine revival?

R. B. Jones once warned: "Satan is not the enemy of revival itself. It would not be difficult to show historically that at times Satan, somehow aware of God's purpose in this respect, has managed to forestall God by sending a counterfeit of the revival God intended."

How can there be genuine revival?

Someone has said: "When human religion gets up a revival, it must have from five to twenty churches of heterogeneous creeds and sectarian bodies go into a great union effort; it must have a mammoth choir and many preachers and multiplied committees, and each committee headed by some banker, judge, mayor, or millionaire's wife.

"Then it signs cards as a substitute for scriptural repentance and is left without the real, supernatural, spontaneous outpouring of the Spirit of God as is characteristic in genuine revivals."

While not wanting to be critical without good reason of modern day revivals, yet it must be pointed out, as the HERALD OF HIS COMING article maintains: "True repentance is always accompanied by a heart-longing after holiness." Notes this periodical, "It is a false Gospel that divorces Christ the Saviour from Christ the Lord. The sinner is a rebel who must repent and lay down his arms of rebellion before the King of kings."

Thus, is it not time we realize that real revival involves regeneration which is truly a supernatural work of the Holy Ghost which man cannot accomplish, but which takes place the moment we yield all to the obedience of Christ and His Word.

As Walter Marshall testified in 1692: "Christ will save none but those who are brought to resign themselves sincerely to the obedience of His royal authority and laws."

Did you hear it?

Receiving Christ means a revolutionary turning about face--turning from all known sin to trust the Saviour--unto a life of obedience and holiness.

As Dr. A. W. Tozer phrased it: "Christians were once revolutionists--moral, not political--but we have lost our revolutionary character."

What makes the difference in revival that is genuine distinguished from the counterfeit is that the real will always exalt Christ in an exhibition of a life of purity.

Says Tozer: "I believe that the imperative need of the day is not simply revival, but a radical reformation that will go to the root of our moral and spiritual maladies and deal with causes rather than with consequences, with the disease rather than with symptoms."

Particularly is this true as we await the coming of our Blessed Lord. Is He not coming for a church that is without spot or blemish or any such thing? And, is not the challenge of the hour that we be found living holy lives in view of His soon coming?

Indeed, in view of His coming, we read: "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

If we are looking for our Lord's return, we will want to be ready. By receiving Him as our Saviour, and acknowledging Him as Lord of our lives, we can be ready.

For he hath said: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



SHALL WE PRAY FOR REVIVAL?

Carl T. Rowan, in a syndicated newspaper column, calls attention to the danger confronting the world as a result of increased Soviet activity in Africa and the lack of American concern. He notes: "The Soviets are moving vigorously all over Africa to exploit every possible conflict while the United States is mesmerized by fears of 'another Vietnam.' "

Rowan goes on to point out: "The Russians are scoring substantial successes by giving Africans, not the food, medicine, schooling that they need, but only arms with which to kill each other."

How different from the missionaries whose message is: "Find Jesus and then you'll 'love one another.' " Amidst the social injustice and political conflict there is revival taking place in Africa as reported by British evangelist Eric Hutchings.

The battle raging in Africa is reflected in the Ethiopian order expelling U. S. government personnel there, and again we're reminded of the threat that exists in that part of the globe.

We must not forget that every country in Africa that falls brings us closer to the day when America will be confronted with the loss of its freedom.

Lenin, in 1924, warned of the plan and program he would enact which would be to take country after country until, he noted, "we shall surround America, the last bastion of freedom."

Today we are being surrounded and, according to Solzhenitsyn, the west will ultimately be forced to surrender.

When Dr. D. James Kennedy of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was asked whether this could happen here, he replied: "My friend, I not only think that God would let it happen--I'm afraid that God will cause it to happen, so immoral and so corrupt and so vile has America become."

Says Dr. Kennedy: "We have had more opportunities for godliness than any nation that has ever lived, but now have more police per capita than any nation in the world, more crime, and the vileness of our motion pictures is unbelievable. Our nation's television is going the same way; its novels, the riots, the crime, the immorality, the breakup of the home, and the total disregard for the things of God in such a large sector of America is absolutely staggering."

Kennedy then quotes Ruth Graham who once declared: "If God does not chasten America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah."

That America is fast going the way of Sodom and Gomorrah might be reflected in reports coming out of Miami where singer-housewife, Anita Bryant, is taking a bold stand for righteousness.

Ten years ago, an article in our local newspaper told of the influx of homosexuals into Dade County with 35,000 to 50,000, according to the Sheriff's Department; and we were told that 60% of these were recruiting.

Apparently, so great has been their success during the past decade that today a representative for homosexual rights in Miami says there are 300,000 residents who may be homosexual.

The PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL, in an exclusive interview with Anita Bryant, asked her how she became involved in the battle for morality that has found her opposing an ordinance recently passed in Miami which bars discrimination against homosexuals. (Today she is trying to get this law repealed.)

She replied: "For a long time I had been praying for America and for revival generally, and also getting more deeply into God's Word than I had previously." Says Anita, "I saw that I had been living in apathy concerning certain issues and the Lord began to show me that He was really narrow about some things--things which I had considered rather small were shown to me to be big in God's eyes."

My friends, this is how God brings about a revival--when we discover the seriousness of sin.

Too long Christians have condoned instead of condemned sin. In fact, in some churches homosexuals and lesbians are being ordained. A recent issue of the NATIONAL OBSERVER reports there are 90 churches whose ministry is to homosexuals, their friends and families!

Anita Bryant's concern was first expressed by her pastor, the Rev. William Chapman of the Northwest Baptist Church on North Miami Beach, who noted that the ordinance passed in Miami would affect their Christian academy, allowing no discrimination to be made against known homosexuals who might apply for teaching jobs in private or parochial schools.

The verse that spoke to Anita and led her to found SAVE OUR CHILDREN, INCORPORATED is Hosea 4:6 which says: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou has rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

On June 7, 1977, a referendum is scheduled in Dade County, the result of a petition drive led by Anita Bryant who opposes the homosexual rights law that was recently passed. She warned that the passing of legislation which favors homosexuality "puts the law of the land on the side of unrighteousness. It makes the law support the wrong side of a moral issue which is rapidly becoming a national problem for which the nation will be judged."

She goes on to point out: "If homosexuals are allowed to change the law in their favor, why not prostitutes, thieves, murderers, or anyone else wanting preferential laws to give them greater protection and freedom from misconduct!"

Anita Bryant's burden is that homosexuals might be reached with the redeeming love of Jesus, and she has requested prayer wherever this report is heard.

Are we concerned over the loss of salvation to those who practice iniquity? The Apostle Paul warns: "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Or, the Living Bible says: "Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexual will have no share in His kingdom...."

We all know the emphasis being placed on being BORN AGAIN! Jesus said, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." So, here we're told that those who practice the sins we have just named will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Dr. Karl Menninger, noted psychiatrist and prison reformer, asked the question at a church conference, "Whatever became of sin?" He went on to say: "Almost no one talks about it any more. We don't talk about sin on weekdays and we hear about it only a few minutes on Sunday, if at all."

Senator Hatfield, addressing a prayer breakfast, similarly stated: "We must start talking about sin again...sin in our personal lives and sin in the corporate life of our country."

The late Dr. W. E. Biederwolf once declared that "nothing will ever save the church and cause her to usher in the Kingdom of God but a plain, fearless dealing with sin and a call for people to repent of their sins and begin to do the will of God." Said Biederwolf: "...unless the people learn to see what sin really is and so come to such an appreciation of its black and hideous character as will cause them to have godly sorrow for it, make an honest confession of it and quit it before God and man, we might just as well sign a quit-claim deed to the devil and be done with it and go out of the business of saving the world."

He mentioned how John the Baptist loaded his rapid-firing gospel gun with the powder of God's wrath and rammed in the seventh commandment and turned it loose on old Herod and shot it into him good and hard. John said: "You're living with your brother Philip's wife and you'll go to hell like any other common sinner. Repent. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Why has the church lost so much of its power? Replies Dr. Biederwolf: "It's because we have been selling out to the world, the flesh, and the devil."

We need to pray for the kind of revival that finds people getting right with God and with one another.

As the late A.W. Tozer put it, "Sometimes praying is not only useless, it is wrong," and he used the illustration of Joshua who spent the day praying for Israel following their defeat at Ai. But the Lord said: "Get thee up...Israel hath sinned...there is an accursed thing in the midst of thee...take away the accursed thing from among you."

My friends, not until we get right with God will He hear us and heal our land. The accursed thing must go. Whatever the Lord shows us that is wrong must be cleansed and repented of if we would be forgiven.

Do we want revival?

Then, here's the secret as given by Evan Roberts, God's instrument to bring about the great Welsh Revival in the early part of this century. Oh, that we might hear and heed this message. He lists four conditions which must be observed if we are to have an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

(1) Is there any sin in your heart that has not been confessed to God? On your knees at once! Your past must be put away and cleansed.

(2) Is there anything in your life that is doubtful, anything you cannot decide whether it is good or evil? Away with it! There must not be a trace of a cloud between you and God.

(3) Do what the Spirit prompts. Obedience, prompt, implicit unquestioning obedience to the Spirit. Better offend ten thousand friends than quench the Spirit of God.

(4) A public confession of Christ as Saviour.

We would hope today that we would recognize the fact that prompt obedience to the revealed will of God in His Word is what brings about revival in our lives. Peter referred to the Holy Ghost, "whom God hath given to them that obey Him."

When Anita Bryant was asked what message she would relay to Christians, based on her own experiences, she replied: "Just three words, Trust and obey!....The key is to be obedient, whatever God says to do, do it as quickly as possible."

Then concerning our nation which is floundering on moral decisions, she says: "I do believe that in this matter, nationally, God has given America space to repent. In any case, the greatest blessing a Christian can experience is to know that you are right with God even if the whole world calls you a bigot."

In view of the coming of our blessed Lord, we need this message. Perhaps it's time to stop praying for revival and, instead, to begin obeying God. It's time to receive Christ as our Saviour, repent of our sin, and through the power of the Holy Spirit to forsake those sins. For we read, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.



DO WE WANT REVIVAL?

There is no question but that these are perilous times and that the only hope for the world is a sweeping Revival.

Former President Herbert Hoover declared that "America is in the midst of a frightening moral slump...This nation needs a rebirth of a great spiritual force."

The Rev. Edward L. R. Elson, of Washington's famed National Presbyterian Church, has said: "On the one hand we are participants and spectators in a period of moral decline, and at the same time we are experiencing what appears to be the greatest moral resurgence and spiritual reawakening in the history of the land."

Observes Austin Phelps: "If the secret connection of revivals with the destiny of nations could be disclosed, they would appear...more significant than the decisive battles of the world."

The history of America is one of revival.

Writing of conditions prevailing among the thirteen Colonies in the early part of the 18th century, one historian notes: "Intemperance, profanity, licentiousness and every form of vice prevailed as never before in their history."

Beardsley, in his HISTORY OF AMERICAN REVIVALS, writes: "For a while the overthrow of Christianity seemed to be complete. Churches were declining. Infidelity was rife, and was increasing alarmingly on every hand." But godly people everywhere determined to pray earnestly and fervently for a spiritual awakening. Says Beardsley: "Christians entered into a solemn covenant to spend a definite portion of their time in prayer for the outpouring of the Spirit of God for the salvation of men."

The result was the glorious revival of 1800. In writing of the influence of this spiritual awakening, Beardsley says: "Infidelity became a vanishing force, while the religious character of the nation was assured for generations to come."

Ben Franklin wrote in his Journal: "From being thoughtless and indifferent about religion it seemed as if all the world were growing religious so that one would not walk through Philadelphia without hearing Psalms sung by different families in every street."

The only hope for America and the world at this time of moral and spiritual declension is a revival of such magnitude that righteousness will once again exalt this nation and sin will be a reproach to all peoples.

Witnessing the awful plague of lawlessness, crime, immorality; when we seem to have lost our sense of moral values; when we worship at the altar of materialism, when immodesty and indecency reigns; when divorce and remarriage is common, we need to return once again to genuine repentance of sin and whole-hearted surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

With our Lord's return hastening, many are convinced that

revival must come...something must happen that will prepare the true Church for the coming Bridegroom.

The call to revival is set forth for us in 2 Chronicles 7:14. "If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Notice, the call to revival is to the children of God--those who call themselves Christians.

Revival is not only for Christians, it is for individual Christians. Torrey once said that the way to have a revival is for each Christian to draw a chalk circle, step within that circle, and ask God to begin the revival inside that circle.

Perhaps some of us are not conscious of our need for revival. Neither were the Laodiceans. No doubt the Laodicean Church was a remarkable work of architecture. It was equipped with the latest and most modern facilities. But our Lord, as he looked at this Church, declares... "Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:17)

Similarly, many in the Church today are not conscious of need. As Vance Havner has said: "The church is so subnormal that if it got back to the New Testament normal, it would seem to be abnormal."

When our church services are mere form without the presence of God there's evidence of the need for revival. When we substitute program and politics for the dynamic power of the Spirit, when we rely on mechanics and machinery instead of the Holy Ghost, that's evidence enough of need for revival.

When Christ is not supreme--not Lord and master of our lives; when we fail to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; when we refuse to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Him; when we tolerate even the pettiest of sins and allow worldliness and the cares of life to rob us of our prayer time and Bible study...we need to repent... to turn from selfish interests...and set ourselves to doing the will of God.

When instead of fervent love for the brethren we are given to criticism, faultfinding, strife and division, there is evidence of need for revival. Finney once declared: "A revival may be expected when Christians confess their sins one to another." When apologies are made for unkind, nasty words, and grievances are adjusted in a manner pleasing to God, revival fires will start burning.

The question really is, DO WE WANT REVIVAL? Are we willing to pay the price for revival in giving ourselves to prayer, in fastings perhaps, and self discipline, in abandonment of personal desires that Christ may be first and foremost?

Writes, Dr. Wm. Culbertson, former president of Moody Bible Institute: "We want revival--at least we say we want revival, but there is a price to be paid. It is a price that is

too much for the worldly Christian. It is a price that is too much for people who are content with such things as they have."

Continues Dr. Culbertson: "I think the price we have to pay is the bitter, excruciating pain of self-crucifixion...the price of revival involves utter humility before God, a bowing of ourselves, a prostrating of ourselves--that involves humiliation, and the understanding that there is no power in us, that it is 'not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' saith the Lord of Hosts."

Is that not in harmony with our Scripture text which declares: "If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Notice these requisites for revival:

First, we are to humble ourselves. Isaiah reminds us that God sits in the heavens to revive the humble! (Isa. 57:15) "For thus saith the high and holy One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE HUMBLE, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

How quick we are to humiliate others, to pick out their faults, when the Scripture says we need humble ourselves. "It's not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer."

Secondly, there must be prayer if there is to be revival.

Dr. Culbertson has said: "The church that was formed in a prayer meeting--how in the world is it going to continue without prayer meetings?"

Whereas the prayer meeting should be the best-attended service, it is often the least attended. Perhaps that is why it is called the "weekly" (weakly) prayer meeting.

Thirdly, there must be a seeking after God.

Some things we receive from God by simply asking. For instance, for anyone desiring salvation, if truly repentant, all that is necessary is to ask the Lord Jesus to save and to forgive.

However, revival is a work of the Spirit of God and comes to those who are truly and earnestly desirous of the Holy Ghost and His ministry in their lives.

The Scripture presents three distinct phases of desire for the Spirit's outpouring. Jesus said: "Ask and ye shall receive, seek, and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (Luke 11:9 & 13)

Revival results from seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Saith the Lord: "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:13)

Fourthly, there must be a turning from sin if there is to be

a revival. Perhaps one of the more recent outstanding revivals is the Welsh Revival witnessed in the early part of this century when whole towns were dominated by the Spirit of God.

Evan Roberts, a foremost figure of that revival declared: "The prophecy of Joel is to be fulfilled. There the Lord says, "I will pour out My spirit on all flesh."

"If that is so," declared Roberts, "all flesh must be prepared to receive. The past must be clear. Every sin must be confessed to God. Any wrong to man must be put right. Everything doubtful must be removed at once out of our lives. Obedience to the Spirit of God must be implicit and prompt."

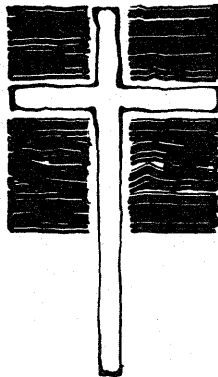
Not only must there be a forsaking of gross sins but a laying aside of weights as well as besetting sins if we are to experience revival.

Hypocrisy and pretense must go. False pride and false humility must be done with. Lust and impurity must cease to operate in our lives. Self must needs be crucified and Christ must reign supreme.

Revival can be expected when we are willing to pay the price for it; when we are ready to part company with sin, and God's will becomes our will.

Today, as we humble ourselves and pray and seek the face of God, turning from all that is wrong, REVIVAL WILL COME-- TO US, AND TO OUR LAND.

So grant it. Amen.



WHY I BELIEVE IN AN ENDTIME REVIVAL

Dwight L. Moody, perhaps America's greatest evangelist, declared in his day that revival was necessary if America was to continue as a republic. Some sixty years ago Moody observed: "It seems to me that every patriot, every man who loves his country, ought to be anxious that the church of God should be quickened and revived." In fact, said Moody, "There is nothing I am more concerned about just now than that God should revive His Church in America."

If Moody was convinced of the need of revival in his day, how much more desperately do we need revival in our day!

There are many, however, who believe that the days of revival are fast coming to a close. For instance, a Gallup poll reflecting on the decline of religious interest and waning church attendance in America once declared that "the end of the nation's postwar religious revival may be in sight."

From the Scriptures we are led to believe that we are on the verge of one of the greatest revivals this world has ever seen. This will not necessarily be a revival among the unsaved, for the Bible tells us that at the time of the end "evil men shall wax worse and worse." This is not a revival particularly among the established churches, for many shall have a form of godliness denying the power thereof. Rather, this revival will come to individual Christians within the churches. It will be a revival of holy living, of judging sin from one's life, of preparing for the soon coming of Jesus.

This does not mean that our Lord will delay His coming just so we can have revival! Actually, from Rev. 7:9-14 we are led to believe that an endtime revival will result largely from the great multitude of those who were anticipating Christ's return but who were unprepared and left behind when that event came. Faced with the awful fact of impending judgment, they will forsake their sin and call upon God for mercy but still will have to endure the awful sufferings and deprivations of the tribulation.

From the Scriptures we would learn that it is God's purpose to present unto Himself a spotless bride, a glorious church without wrinkle or blemish. Thus, of necessity, a revival must come to the Church if believers are to be ready for the soon coming of our blessed Lord.

Did you hear it?

Beloved, read the 25th chapter of Matthew. Here our Lord tells the story of the Ten Virgins, a parable related to His coming. We read how the bridegroom tarried and all ten virgins slumbered and slept. Somehow this is a picture of the complacency of the church today.

But suddenly there is a cry made. It is the midnight hour, and all ten virgins are awakened by this announcement that they

hear, "The bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

I do not know what will fully constitute the midnight cry. It may be an atomic war or a major fulfilment of prophecy. At least, at midnight--at an hour of great peril--the cry is sounded. Radio, no doubt, will play a great part in heralding this cry.

Ah, hear me, beloved. I feel as though these days of revival are already upon us. The Spirit of God is moving across the length and breadth of this land awakening and stirring believers to the soon coming of Jesus.

Then we read: "All those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps." Did you hear it? That's revival! There's coming what the Scriptures call a lamp-trimming time.

Notice also, not only did these virgins begin to trim their lamps but they became concerned about their supply of oil. The wise virgins, in particular, made sure they carried with them additional vessels which contained oil to replenish the supply needed to keep their lamps burning brightly.

May I ask you, Are you conscious of the tremendous interest in the work of the Spirit of God in our day? Oil is symbolic of the work of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures would convince us that in addition to receiving Christ as Saviour we need to surrender wholly to Him as Lord and thus know something of the control of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Call the experience what you will--readiness for Christ's return demands an encounter with the Holy Spirit. The foolish virgins who missed the bridegroom referred to Him as their Lord. But the Bible says that no man can say that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Ghost.

Many with their preconceived ideas will, no doubt, reject this message; nevertheless, it is true that some who call themselves Christians, who sang gospel songs and choruses about the coming of Jesus, will miss the event we call the Rapture. And tragedy of tragedies, they will regret a million times over that they were unprepared for Christ's coming as they are thrust into the awful tribulation.

Jesus taught that we were to watch and pray always that we may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are coming to pass and to stand before the Son of Man. Are we watching? Are we praying? Are we ready should Jesus come today?

In Luke, chapter 12, our Lord declares: "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching." And then He goes on to relate the story of the servant who says in his heart, "My Lord delayeth His coming" and he begins to live carelessly. "The Lord of that servant," said Jesus, "will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and cut him in sunder (margin says: "cut him off") and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers."

Did you hear it? Jesus said concerning that servant who was unprepared that he would be left behind with unbelievers.

Now, turn back to the book of Revelation, where pictured for us are several groups of believers which we believe represent

all of the host of tribulation saints.

In chapter 5, we read of a group John sees in Heaven. They are singing praises to the Lamb. They are rejoicing as the redeemed out of every kindred, and tongue, and nation. Apparently, these are the raptured saints of whom it is said that they are kings and priests unto God who will reign with him upon the earth.

In chapter 6, there is a second group--those of whom it is said, "And white robes were given unto everyone of them." In Scripture, a robe speaks of righteousness, and it would seem that these are they who are saved during the tribulation. Refusing to bow to antichrist, they are martyred, slain for the Word of God and for their testimony that Jesus is indeed the Christ.

Then there is a third group--the Jewish remnant--the 144,000 out of all the tribes of Israel that will be saved during this time of tribulation.

Finally, there is shown to us a fourth group. "Lo, a great multitude, which no man could number of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues...clothed with white robes and palms in their hands."

In what appears to be consternation and bewilderment, one of the elders asks: "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" Where did they come from?

The reply is heard: "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

O, hear me today, beloved. Here was a multitude of believers that John did not know existed, nor did he expect to see.

Now, if you have a Scofield Bible, the explanation given concerning this group is that they are "Gentiles who are to be saved during the great tribulation." But the Scripture reminds us that these aren't given white robes such as the earlier group, but rather, during the time of the Great Tribulation, they wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. There is only one logical and reasonable explanation and that is the sad fact that a great multitude will be unprepared and left behind when Jesus comes--many whose robes were spotted, defiled by fleshly lusts, stained with worldliness, and soiled with careless living. It is said concerning these: "They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

My friends, it is the blood of Jesus that cleanses from all sin. But it's not something that's automatic. We must renounce our sin; we must repent of our sin; we must forsake our sin if we are to be forgiven and ready for the coming of Jesus.

How many consider their sin lightly. They sin wilfully and repeatedly, thinking that the "little nightly prayer" will find the Lord forgiving them when actually they have no intention of forsaking those sins. The Bible says: "If we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking forward of judgment and fiery indignation which shall devour

the adversaries. (Heb. 10:26-27)

God is loving and God is forgiving, but the tribulation will mark the end of God's patience and the beginning of His judgment. Amidst the physical sufferings of the tribulation, many will forsake their sins and call upon God for mercy. Shocked, surprised, and saddened at being left behind, you will find in the midst of this tribulation, the greatest revival the world has ever known.

How sad for anyone to miss the rapture, especially when you can heed this message today. "Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."



WHY WE DO NOT HAVE REVIVAL

Billy Sunday, the professional baseball player who became a flaming evangelist, gave up his career because he didn't feel right about playing ball on Sunday which he considered the Lord's Day. How many professional athletes would do the same today? Maybe this is one of the reasons why we do not have revival today!

When Billy Sunday entered the pulpit, he would open his Bible to the passage in Isaiah where we read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me," and under that promise of God's anointing he would begin to preach. Naming specific evils of his day like "drinking," he would go down the line condemning sin. Or, picking up a chair, he would chase after the devil as if engaged in actual combat. Sin and the devil were so real to Billy Sunday that he would fight these with all he had. He would not only oppose the liquor interests which were parasites robbing hard-working men of their paychecks, but he dramatically told of little children who were starving because money for food went into booze. And he described men who would beat their wives and children while under the influence of demon alcohol, with the result that before long, beer joints closed down because of a lack of business. Too many customers who frequented these dens were becoming converted in his meetings.

That's the kind of revival we need. With the tide of godlessness increasing, and lawlessness prevailing, we need a revival that will close topless joints and move out of our communities the theatres and bookshops that are showing pornographic X-rated material.

When the great Charles Finney preached, he would often make men feel so uneasy that they would drop to their knees and begin to repent of their sin. How long has it been since you have seen souls weeping their way to God, seeking His forgiveness?

On one occasion, Finney entered a factory and his very presence brought such conviction over that place that the employees began to drop to their knees to weep and to pray, and the place had to shut down.

At another time, Finney--a little man with a big voice--went to check the acoustics in a certain auditorium, and a workman was brought under conviction by just hearing the evangelist's voice. That's the revival we need.

When Jonathan Edwards preached his masterful sermon, "Sinners in the hands of an angry God," there were those in the pews who actually held on to their seats, or who grabbed the pillars of the church to keep from slipping into hell.

Where do you find that kind of preaching in our day?

There is a verse in the Bible which reads, "Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men."

Could it be that this kind of preaching is largely lacking today, and there is not the holy fear in the hearts of men that there should be which would not allow sin to go on unchecked?

How long will God's patience endure? How long will He tolerate man's sinful acts without sending judgment?

The facts of history would indicate that divine retribution comes to all people who disregard God's divine laws.

And, as we've just read concerning the judgment that is coming, it will not only befall the wicked but all those who obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Could it be that we have the false impression that our obedience to God's laws are not important? Yes, we know what God says about upholding standards of morality as taught in His Word, but we have the mistaken impression that we are living in a different day and that his moral laws are not applicable today.

With such a philosophy bordering on a do-as-you-please attitude, we are in danger of facing the judgment we have just described--a judgment that will befall all those who know not God, and who obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It's time we realize that the Gospel must not only be believed, it must also be obeyed. **THIS IS THE REVIVAL WE NEED....A REVIVAL OF OBEDIENCE** to the divinely-revealed will of God as taught in His Word.

God has not changed in His hatred of sin. Hear Him as He thunders forth "For I am the Lord, I change not." (Mal. 3:5) He spoke those words in connection with the promise of judgment, saying: "I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers (those using witchcraft and drugs), and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear me not, saith the Lord of hosts." (Mal. 3:5)

Could it be that we need a Moses who will appear on the scene to thunder forth the commandments of God as he did on Mount Sinai?

And we need an Elijah to bring down fire from heaven and who will withstand the Jezebels who today defy God's order concerning mankind. Jezebel was one of the first promoters of "Women's Lib" for she ruled over her husband and swayed him at will though he was the king of Israel.

If Elijah were to appear, I'm sure he would condemn the Jezebels who brazenly parade in the most shocking attire, or often the lack of it; and you could be sure he would not grant any interviews to PLAYBOY magazine, either.

And we need John the Baptist to return and to call this nation to old-fashioned repentance, crying out to all that he meets-- "Who hath warned you to flee the wrath to come?"

Remember that when King Herod the Tetrarch divorced his wife to marry his brother's wife, it was John the Baptist who cried out that it was not lawful for him to have her. And, you

will recall that the king had John put to death.

My friends, isn't that the kind of revival we need which will defy the king's commandment and declare God's laws which are higher than any man-made decrees?

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a community can determine its moral standards so that it is up to those living in the community as to whether X-rated films and topless, bottomless acts can be performed.

The revival we need is one where men will stand up for that righteousness which exalteth a nation.

Some would have us believe that the sole responsibility of the church is to preach the Gospel, but if we tolerate sin in our community, by our silence we are not proclaiming the whole Gospel.

In many communities the judges and police would gladly cooperate to close dens of iniquity seen springing up, but as long as believers do not file their objections, these porno shops and X-rated theatres will continue to spread their poisonous filth affecting particularly the young. May God help us.

The revival we need is one that will see our youth protected from the devil's onslaughts, with all who claim to be born again uniting in praying for a spiritual awakening that will turn the tide of godlessness which we are seeing today.

Comedian Bob Hope, in an interview here in Florida, said that he thinks pornographic movies are on their way out, but only if decent, respectable citizens unite to outlaw it in our communities can we expect this to happen.

Hope said he thinks we're "running out of perversions" but you can be sure that unless the devil is stopped, he will surely invent some new ones.

The revival we need is one that finds neighbors asking forgiveness of one another, ceasing their arguments over little insignificant matters including lot lines.

Back bills would be paid, stolen goods returned or reimbursement made, with the IRS getting some back monies on income tax if we had real revival in this country.

The question comes, Are we willing to pay for that kind of revival? If so, you've heard it said that we need to take a piece of chalk, form a circle, and standing within that circle, pray: "Lord, begin the revival with me."

Hear me. It's time we get right with God individually. If we say we are born again and do not have this kind of religion, our neighbor is only laughing at us. He's probably said sneeringly, "If that's religion, I don't want it."

The Scripture says: "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." The revival we need is one that sees a forsaking of sin, and following righteousness and true holiness, and which finds us ready whenever our Lord returns.

By repenting of all of our sin and trusting the Lord to forgive us, we can be ready when He comes.

For He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

THE REVIVAL WE NEED

One of our national news journals reports that Christianity is thriving in all of Africa. (U.S.NEWS, May 2, '77)

According to this magazine, "Despite murder, expulsion and repression of black and white churchmen, Christianity among black Africans is flourishing with dynamic new life.

"Churches everywhere are jammed with young and old, from big cathedrals in the cities to small rural chapels, some of them mere tin shacks topped by wooden crosses. Where there are no churches, open-air services are held in bush clearings and jungle glades.

"Church authorities estimate that there are more than 100 million Christians among the 330 million blacks..." in Africa today.

Concerning revival in the central African country of Zaire, it is reported that the number of Protestant Christians has increased 550% in the last ten years. In the capital city of Kinshasa, the number of churches has grown from 45 to 120.

According to one church official: "Someday there may be more Christians in Africa than anywhere else in the world."

U.S.NEWS & WORLD REPORT comments: "Churchmen throughout black Africa see no end to growth of Christianity on the continent."

We might ask, Is this not what God promised in the last days--to pour out of His Spirit upon all flesh?

Some evangelical denominations that sent missionaries to Africa years ago report more members abroad than in the United States. So this is an example of what God is doing on a marvelous scale abroad.

When the Comoro Islands, off the east coast of Africa, became independent back in 1975, all doctors and teachers left the country except for one man who remained behind. He was a missionary doctor associated with the Africa Inland mission. He provided emergency medical care and so impressed the leaders of that 100% Muslim country that they asked him to send additional Christian medics.

Soon afterward the law changed in that country permitting freedom of religion. Even free radio time has been given to broadcast the gospel on government owned stations.

At last report some 15 missionaries are now residing there with conversions to Christ taking place proving that the gospel is still the power of God unto salvation to all that believe.

In Nigeria, the government was so impressed with the work of Christian teachers there that they decided to give all Nigerian children an 8th grade education.

Already 600 teachers have responded to the call but we understand the government is calling for 40,000 teachers.

Any Christian teacher looking for a job should contact the

Sudan Interior Mission, Cedar Grove, New Jersey, 07009.

The late Dr. A.W.Tozer once observed: "Wherever Christians meet these days, one word is sure to be heard constantly repeated; that word is REVIVAL."

However, Tozer observed: "I believe that the imperative need of the day is not simply revival, but a radical reformation that will go to the root of our moral and spiritual maladies and deal with causes rather than with symptoms."

Tozer called attention to the lethargy and lukewarmness that has settled over much of the professing church. "Of us Bible Christians," says Tozer, "it may truthfully be said that we 'sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.' The separating line between the Church and the world has been all but obliterated," he notes.

He goes on to make this observation--"Aside from a few of the grosser sins, the sins of the unregenerated world are now approved by a shocking number of professedly 'born again' Christians, and copied eagerly. Young Christians," he notes, "take as their models the rankest kind of worldlings and try to be as much like them as possible. The moral climate is not that of the New Testament, but that of Hollywood and Broadway."

May God help us!

Dr. Tozer believed that the Scriptures indicate that "Sometimes praying is not only useless, it is wrong." Indeed, the Psalmist would remind us, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." (Ps. 66:18)

For example, a thief may come to Christ and receive forgiveness. But then we read, "Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." (Eph. 4:28)

Genuine conversion results not only in sins forgiven but also in ministering to the needs of others who are in need.

Again, a thief may find forgiveness but what about his past debts? Are these automatically forgiven and forgotten? What about making restitution?

Take Zacchaeus, for example.

When Jesus came along and saw Zacchaeus in a sycamore tree, he told him to make haste and come down for he must abide at his house. So Zacchaeus, who was rich and a chief among the publicans, received him gladly. Not only did he take him into his home as a guest but surely had a heart experience of conversion for he said: "Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Jesus replied: "This day is salvation come to this house..." (Lu 19:1-9)

Now Zacchaeus was not saved simply because he offered to right his wrongs, but restitution was an evidence of his new-found faith. Not only did he offer to return what he had taken

by false measure--fraud, but he offered to quadruple the amount, as required by Roman law when a person was overcharged. And he offered to surrender half of his gains to the poor as this, too, was part of the teachings of Jesus although no law required him to do so.

What we are saying is that if a person is genuinely converted he will show it in his actions. Real revival is accompanied by repentance and restitution.

Real revival is also accompanied by sensitivity to human needs.

Do we go out of our way like the good samaritan to help the fallen--those who are in need?

Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another."

You ask, How can I have this love? What do I need to prompt me to reach my neighbor for Christ? Why is it that our church is not doing something to reach the outcasts of society, the under-privileged, those of lower incomes, those with different ethnic and racial backgrounds?

Here we have a mission field at our doorstep. No need to learn a new language. And yet, here are those for whom Christ died without hope and without salvation because we have not carried the gospel to them.

May God help us!

Again the question comes, How can we have this love that is willing to reach the drug addict and the alcoholic? How can we have love for those of other color of skin from ours?

The Scriptures would remind us that "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Rom. 5:5)

So if we lack this love, is it not evidence of a lack of the Holy Ghost in our lives and in our midst?

Jude has warned that in the last time there would be those who would walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." (Jude 18-19)

Did you hear it? They have "not the Spirit."

If the parable of the Ten Virgins has any lesson for us today, it is this. Half of those who waited for the coming of the bridegroom were void of oil which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

Unless and until we have in the church today a confession of need and a hungering for holiness, we are not going to see revival. Satisfied to go to our services, going through the motions of religion, and afterward attending a party, or returning home to watch some worldly television show.....and then we wonder why we are not having revival!

We need to hunger and thirst after righteousness that we might be filled with the Holy Ghost and get a burden for a world that needs to be reached for Christ before He returns.

Can we have this kind of revival today?

We have evangelism, but we need revival. Evangelism often

finds dry eyes while assenting to facts of morality and theological concepts, while revival finds a shedding of tears, getting right with God and one another, confessing and forsaking of sin, and returning stolen property, and the paying of our bills.

Do we want revival? Do we want the Holy Spirit to be poured out in our churches? The Bible says, "The Holy Ghost (is) given to them that obey Him."

Obedience to all of the revealed will of God is necessary if we are to experience revival. Genuine revival will produce blessing and prepare the church for the coming of our Lord.

Is this not the revival we need?

What is the secret? How can I experience revival? How can I know I am ready for the coming of Jesus?

Our Lord declared, in John 12:24-26: "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit; He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."

Did you hear it?

The secret is to surrender all to Jesus Christ.

D.L.Moody, who shook two continents, emphasizing the need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, said: "The secret of the Holy Spirit's 'coming' in power to the believer is the individual's complete surrender to the Saviour."

R.A.Torrey, an associate of Moody, likewise declared: "The surrendered will and life is the great secret of receiving the Holy Ghost. All turns upon this."

Are you willing to put Christ first in your life and in all of your relationships? Are you willing to confess your sins to those whom you have wronged and then accept the cleansing blood of Christ as covering for your sins?

Remember, Jesus said: "He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." So come to Him now. Believe in Him without delay. Confess your sins to Him. Surrender your life to Him. Receive of the fulness of God's Spirit to bless your life and to prepare you for the coming of our Blessed Lord.

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.



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