



WILL WE HAVE REVIVAL?

December 2015

There is plenty of talk about revival, but I do not believe very many of God's people want revival. They want to see people saved and the Church grow, but they do not want revival. It would cost them EVERYTHING, and I don't see Christians ready for that. A.W. Tozer said, "There seems to be the notion that if we talk enough and pray enough, revival will set in like a stock market boom... We appear to be waiting for some sweet chariot to swing low and carry us to the Big Rock Candy Mountain of religious experience...leaving us morally as we are now, except that we will be a lot happier and there will be many more of us. Our mistake is we want God to send revival on OUR terms. We want to still be in charge... (going) in the direction we want to go... We are calling on God to send fire on OUR altars, completely ignoring the fact that they are OUR altars and not God's." He also said, "Today we have the strange phenomenon of a company of Christians claiming...the purity of their Bible creed, and still at the same time following the unregenerate world - coldness, worldliness, pride, boasting, lying, misrepresenting, love of money, exhibitionism - all a part of the religious show." What we really want is a bigger, more wealthy, easy-going Church. Laodicea on a bigger scale! Listen to John Wesley on revival: "I never heard or read of any considerable revival of religion, which was not attended with a spirit of reproving. I believe it cannot be otherwise." Who wants that kind of preaching today? Just try it and see what kind of a response you get! There is no known revival without deep conviction of sin, much prayer (nights or days of prayer), heartfelt confession of sins (accompanied by genuine tears of remorse) and complete surrender to the Spirit of God. The self life will not be in evidence when revival comes. There won't be room for anything but God! We truly need it, but do we really want it? Reader, do YOU want it?

Isaiah 57:15 says, "**For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him that is also of a CONTRITE AND HUMBLE spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**" I am not being harsh nor sarcastic, but tell me how many believers you know who are truly humble and contrite. You just slight or reprimand one of these "spiritual" Christians and see what kind of a reaction you get. Read about the revivals in the Bible; were not the people humbled, did they not weep over their sins and forsake them? I say it in love (and I have told our people this many times), it bothers me to see people going forward, but after the service is over they are still the same old person. Thank God there are exceptions, but they are few. Our churches are full of those who have gone forward scores of times, but no change in their lives or interests can be seen. Worldly Christians go forward, but they are still worldly. Lazy Christians go forward, but they are still lazy. And so it goes. People go forward to surrender to God, but they are not interested in prayer and soul winning. They have no compassion. They needed revival in Isaiah's day, but God said, "**BEHOLD, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that he cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.**" We certainly need revival; I for one pray for it and would love to see it, but frankly, I don't think we are anywhere near it. Too few of God's people really want it! We will not admit it, and we resent anyone saying it, but our Fundamental Baptist churches are Laodicean. We want to be spiritual and have the blessing of God on our own terms and without giving up the old self life. We are willing to be *partly or mostly* surrendered, *but not fully surrendered* - totally given over to God and His Word! May the Lord help us! The message to the Laodicean Church is REPENT! (Challenge Reprint)

CORNERSTONE NEWS

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Thursday, Dec. 31 — 5:00 — 8:00

*A Great Family Night!
Invite a Friend!*

5:00 - GOSPEL FILM

6:00 - BUFFET SUPPER

7:00 – TESTIMONIES
PRAYERTIME
LORD'S SUPPER



*No better way to end the Old
year and start the New!*

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WEEK OF PRAYER

JANUARY 4 - 7, 2016

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

"IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER"

Bring the Family!

WHAT IS THE CHURCH TO YOU?

If there is one thing that pierces the Savior's heart with unutterable grief, it is not the world's iniquity, but the Church's indifference. – F.B. Meyer

People do not miss Church services because they live too far from the building, they miss Church because they live too far from God.

Billy Sunday said: "You say, I'll be a Christian and go to Heaven without a Church. Yes, and you can go to Europe without getting on board a ship or airplane. The swimming is good, but the sharks are waiting for those who take that route. If a man is saved, he should look for a good Bible believing Church right away!"

YOUTH CORNER

NOW CONSIDER THIS! F.C. Jennings: "People do not love unpalatable truths, and when they have the alternative of listening to soothing assurance, moving eloquence, pleasing illustrations, and entertaining anecdotes, they not unnaturally avoid and withdraw as far as they can from the scathing rebukes of the prophet" (Jennings, *Studies in Isaiah*).

R.A. Torrey: "It is clear that there must be difficulties for us in a revelation such as the Bible. If someone were to hand me a book that was as simple to me as the multiplication table, and say, 'This is the Word of God; in it He has revealed His whole will and wisdom,' I would shake my head and say, 'I cannot believe it; that is too easy to be a perfect revelation of infinite wisdom.' There must be, in any complete revelation of God's mind and will and character and being, things hard for the beginner to understand; and the wisest and best of us are but beginners" (Torrey, *Difficulties in the Bible*). – FBIS (10/16/15)

HOW TO GET NEAR TO GOD! Now, if you want to get near to God, just obey Him; that is the quickest way to get near Him. He takes those in nearest communion with Himself who obey Him. Once while Jesus talked to the people, His mother and brethren stood without, desiring to speak with Him... He answered, "Who is my mother and who are my brethren?" Then, He stretched out His hands toward the disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister and my mother." The truest sign that we love God is that we obey Him. –D.L. Moody. Jesus said, "**If ye love me, keep My commandments.**" ~*John 14:15*. There are some Christians who walk in disobedience and try to make up for it by giving something extra, or by some other deed. But that will not work! "**To obey is better than sacrifice.**" **What made Moses great?** It was said of Moses over fifty times, "**He did as the Lord commanded Him.**" The simplest definition of faith I know is just taking God at His Word.

TRUTH ABOUT BIBLE VERSIONS

All bibles are not the inspired Word of God! Pastor Starr's book: "Is Your Bible Really The Word Of God?" will help you understand the truth. \$3.00 each plus 1.50 postage. Three for \$9.00 pp. (U.S. \$)

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

IRAN TESTS MISSILE BREACHING UN COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

Iran tested a new medium-range ballistic missile last month in a breach of two U.N. Security Council resolutions, two U.S. officials said on Monday. The officials, both speaking on condition of anonymity, said the test was held on Nov. 21. One of them said the missile traveled within Iranian territory. Fox News earlier on Monday on its website cited Western intelligence sources as saying the test was held near Chabahar, a port city near Iran's border with Pakistan. All ballistic missile tests by Iran are banned under a 2010 Security Council resolution that remains valid until a nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers is implemented. Under that deal, reached on July 14, most sanctions on Iran will be lifted in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. According to a July 20 resolution endorsing that deal, Iran is still "called upon" to refrain from work on ballistic missiles designed to deliver nuclear weapons for up to eight years. In October, the United States, Britain, France and Germany called for the Security Council's Iran sanctions committee to take action over a missile test by Tehran that month that they said violated U.N. sanctions. So far, no action has been taken by the committee. *NewsMax* (12/8/15). Ed, So what did you expect; compliance?

AMAZING CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT.

The uproar over an Arabic assignment at a Virginia school has grown to the point where school district officials have canceled Friday classes for all schools under their authority. The controversy began earlier this week at Riverheads High School in Staunton, Virginia over a World Geography class assignment in which students copied a piece of Arabic text as part of a calligraphy lesson. But when students discovered that the phrase they copied was [the Shahada](#), meaning, "There is no other God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger," they pushed back. Now, the furor over the lesson has reached such a fever pitch that the Augusta County School Board has canceled classes, [saying in a statement](#) that, while it is absolutely amazing what is going on in this country here have been no threats, the complaints have increased and "based on concerns regarding the tone and content of those communications," the board has chosen to close schools on Friday. –AOL News (12/18/15). Ed. It is absolutely amazing what is going on in this country which promotes Islam. No doubt some of it is due to ignorance, but the ignorant need to investigate to see if their understanding is correct. It is amazing what is being put into young minds these days.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL CANNOT DENY EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF GAY MARRIAGE.

A Massachusetts state court ruled that a rescinded job offer by a Catholic school to a man in a same-sex marriage violates state discrimination laws. Matthew Barrett filed a lawsuit in 2014 after Fontbonne Academy in Milton rescinded a job offer in 2013 as director of food services when he listed his same-sex marriage partner as his emergency contact. A Massachusetts judge ruled in Barrett's favor, rejecting the school's religious freedom argument and its appeal to its Catholic mission and witness." As an educational institution, Fontbonne retains control over its mission and message. It is not forced to allow Barrett to dilute that message, where he will not be a teacher, minister or spokesman for Fontbonne and has not engaged in public advocacy of same-sex marriage," declared Norfolk Superior Court Judge Douglas Wilkins in a Wednesday ruling. Judge Wilkins added that they did not meet the religious exclusion test because the school employs non-Catholics in some teaching roles and non-Catholics are allowed to be enrolled as students. The judge ruled the school is liable for lost wages and damages in their decision to not hire Barrett, which will be addressed in a subsequent hearing. It is currently unclear if Fontbonne Academy will appeal the ruling, but they declared they are considering their options. – Christian Post (12/18/15)

AIR FORCE ACADEMY MAY CONTINUE PRE-GAME PRAYER ON FOOTBALL FIELD.

Air Force Academy football players may continue to take a Tim Tebow-style pre-game prayer break on the field, officials say. The decision comes after a complaint from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation about the practice, Air Force Times reports. "An inquiry was initiated, which found the football players' actions to be consistent with Air Force Instruction 1-1 and its guidance on the free exercise of religion and religious accommodation," Academy officials said in a statement, the newspaper reports. The complaint came after the Falcons, dropping to one knee, prayed in the end zone after their Nov. 28 game against the University of New Mexico – and then did it again at their next game against San Diego State University. The Foundation's founder and president, Mikey Weinstein, tells the newspaper he's considering going to federal court to get an injunction "to stop this pernicious and pervasive practice of fundamentalist Christian supremacy, triumphalism and exhibitionism." –NewsMax (12/24/15) Ed. It is amazing how lately the atheists attack Christians but not others.

IMPORTANT BIBLE QUESTIONS

The Bible has some questions that are of importance to all. Here are three of them: **Question #1** - **“What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”** ~*Mark 8: 36,37*. One of these days you will leave this world and all you have accumulated; where will your soul go? **Question #2** - **“What must I do to be saved?”** ~*Acts 16:30*. The answer is given in the next verse: **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!”** Scripture makes it clear that believing in Christ is to believe that He died on the cross for your sins and rose again. There is no other way! Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”** ~*John 14:6*. It is common today to believe that there are many ways to get to Heaven, but those who believe that are deceived. The Bible says, **“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death.”** It is not what man thinks but what God says that counts. **Question #3** - **“How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?”** ~*Hebrews 2:3*. You do not have to reject Christ to be lost! The truth is, you are already lost! You need to be saved if you are going to get to Heaven. Salvation is a gift - *Ephesians 2:8,9*. If someone offers you a gift and you neglect to take it, whose fault is the loss? The ultimate question is, “Are you saved?” We urge you to settle life’s most important question now, by receiving Christ as your Savior. **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”** ~*Acts 16:31*.

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THE COST OF NEGLECT

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee.” ~*1 Timothy 4:14*. The dictionary says that “neglect” means “carelessness.” The word used in the Bible means “disinterested.” Neglect is a most common destroyer in every area of life. Last year, I did not sow or cultivate my garden - but what a tremendous crop resulted --- of weeds. All it took to grow them was neglect. I stopped last fall to poke around an old abandoned house; a favorite hobby. It was falling to pieces: windows broken, roof leaking, floors sagging, doors loosened from their hinges. There was a day someone built and cared for that house, but now one word told the story - neglect. For some reason the owner lost interest and neglected it. Neglect was written all over the place. This sort of thing is true of all of life. We have talents, opportunities, and gifts which must be constantly cultivated and used or they will be lost by neglect. Put your arm in a sling and do not use it for a number of months and see what happens. It will atrophy and become useless unless taken out and vigorously exercised. The Christian who does not use his God-given faculties and gifts, will lose them through neglect. You need to keep your spiritual house in order by not neglecting these gifts. How many once vibrant Christians we have seen lose their spirituality and usefulness by neglecting God’s means of bearing fruit. You need to read your Bible and pray seriously every day. How many once witnessed for Christ but no longer. **“Neglect not the gift that is in thee.”** If your spiritual life is in disrepair through neglect, what you need is revival. **“Repent and do first works!”** -Adapted.