

Psm. 11:3

Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galations 5:1

NEWS LETTER

Issue #40

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Psalm 85

Lord, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob. Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned thyself from the fierceness of thine anger. Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease. Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation. I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

Don't Forget!

by Bro. Donnie Burford

We write ourselves Notes to remember important things. God has written us 66 Books that we might know and remember Him and His ways! Don't let forgetfulness rob you of God's Blessings!

James 1:22-25; *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

Proverbs 4:4-5; *"He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth."*

Psalm 20:7; *"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."*

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

~Psalm 85:6~

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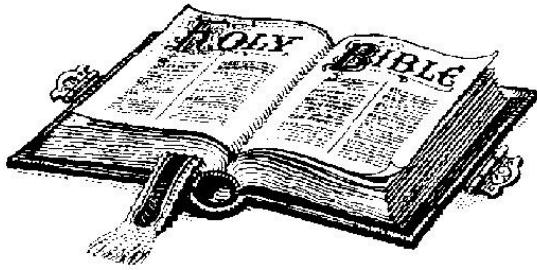
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Sermon

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. II Timothy 4:2



“A Call To Revival, Restored Glory” by Bro. Timothy Works



I Sam. 7:1-4

“...and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD..”

What had brought on this lamentation?

Like the Lord's churches today, Israel had experienced a long “dry season.”

Beloved, our churches are in need of Revival! No one in particular, but a general condition that can be observed in our churches. It is my desire to see a genuine Holy Spirit revival among the Lord's Churches. It has been my desire and prayer that in these messages God would send revival here that we might be prepared for the return of our Lord and our gathering together to him.

Introduction

The “**Glory**” of God is his abiding presence manifested in Israel's prosperity and victory.

God has promised never to leave us nor forsake us, but we are to maintain our covenant responsibilities in order to experience God's blessings. **Joshua 1:5-8**

“Only be thou,”... vs. 7

“Then thou shalt”... vs. 8

Like Israel of old, the “Glory” of God has departed from his churches.

The evidence of God's Spirit manifested in power in our churches is only a remembrance of how it “use to be.”

This Nation is in bad shape and it is because we as God's people and his churches have failed.

It is not because of the lost and worldly people.

It is not because of the Catholic Church.

It is not because of the Protestant or Non-Denominational Churches.

*It is because we as **Baptist Churches** have become backslidden, materialistic, cold, and complacent.*

Our text shows us how God's people lost the “Glory of God” but then **recovered** it.

A Call To Revival / Restoring the Glory of God

I Sam. 4:19-22

I. Ichabod “The Glory Has Departed”

As evidenced by:

Then Vs. 4:16-17

- 1.) They were defeated by their enemies (the Philistines / a type of the worldliness that threatens to invade our churches)
- 2.) Their leaders were dead (Hophni, Phinehas and Eli) Only Samuel remained.
- 3.) The Ark of the Lord was in the hands of the Philistines.

Now Matt. 5:13-16

1.) We are not able to stand separated from the world, our light and witness is dimmed, Men see our sin and hypocrisy not our good works and blaspheme our God, as salt we are cast aside and trodden under the feet of man. Men are seeking out other religions instead of Christ.

2.) So many of the men of God who earnestly contended for the Faith, in the past, have been called home. Many of those who remain are aging and in poor health and we do not see young men answering the Call to the ministry as in the past. Many churches are without Pastors and Shepherds. We see many today who once stood for the truths of God's word compromising and departing from the faith as it was once delivered.

3.) Finally, we see our churches filled with worldliness, ungodliness and have to wonder if many of our church members are really saved. Our congregations are under the control of the world.

II. Why the Glory Had Departed

In order to seek and find Revival, we must identify the causes of our “**backsliding**” that has brought about our coldness, indifference and deadness.

Then: I Sam. 2:12, 17, 22, 25, 3:13

The sons of Eli were sons of Belial (the devil). **2:12**

They abhorred the offering of the Lord. **2:17**
They were morally unclean before the Lord.

2:22
They hearkened not to the voice of their father.

2:25
And he restrained them not. **3:13**

Now I Tim. 3:15, II Tim. 4:3-4, Jude: 11-12

Lost members in pew and pulpit
No respect for the traditions, customs and ordinances of God's House.
Fornication, adultery, divorce & remarriage, and homosexuality are rampant in churches.
Will not hearken to the preaching and teaching of God's word.
Pastors and churches will no longer discipline disorderly church members.

III. How the Glory Was Restored

What steps must be taken in order to experience a genuine Holy Spirit Revival?

A. Then: I Sam. 7:3

1. Put away the strange gods
2. Prepare your hearts
3. Serve the Lord Only

B. Now: II Chron. 7:14, II Cor. 7:9-11

1.) **Repent**, "turn from your wicked ways."
Revival begins with a genuine soul felt sorrow for sin.

"Put away the strange gods"
"Lay aside the **sin** which does so easily beset us."

Evidenced in:

Carefulness,
(to give an account, defense, to answer for oneself.)

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which believe in God might be careful to maintain good works." **Titus 3:8**
"And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship;" **Luke 16:2**
"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." **Rom. 14:12**

Clearing of yourselves
(Taking the necessary steps for reconciliation, restitution and restoration)
"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." **Matt. 18:15**
"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore** such an one in the spirit of meekness." **Gal. 6:1**

Indignation toward sin
(Eschew evil) turn away from sin when temptation and sin presents itself.
"Abstain from the appearance of evil." **I Thess. 5:2**

Fear
(Reverence toward God)

"And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles."
Acts 2:43

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." **Psm 89:7**

Vehement (earnest) desire
"Earnestly contend for the faith once delivered" **Jude :3**

Zeal
"Zealous of good works" **Titus 2:14**

Revenge
Punishment (church discipline) Reprove, rebuke, exhort.

2.) "**Sanctify** the Lord God in your hearts" **I Peter 3:15**

"Prepare your hearts"
3.) "**Present** your bodies a living sacrifice."
Romans 12:1-2
"Serve the LORD only"

Conclusion & Invitation

From "*Ichabod*" (The glory has departed) **I Sam.4: 21**
to "*Ebenezer*" (The stone of help) **I Sam. 7:12**
Once again God was with his people Israel to bless and to strengthen them and to give them victory over their enemies. Jesus is our "Rock"; all who trust in him shall not be ashamed.
Put away "*the sin that does so easily beset us*" **Heb. 12:1**
Prepare your heart, "*sanctify the Lord God in your hearts*" **I Peter 3:15**
Serve the Lord only, "*Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.*" **Heb. 12:2**

"Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by **thy** help I'm come, and I hope by **thy** good pleasure, safely to arrive at home."

"Through many dangers toils and snares I have already come, tis **grace** hath brought me safe thus far and **grace** will lead me home."



Mr. Practical



I have no greater joy than to hear
that my children are walking in the
truth. ||| John 1:4



with Bro. Todd Bryant

The Psalmist's Plea for Revival

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" – Psalms 85:6

There is some debate among commentators as to when this Psalm was penned. Spurgeon believes David authored it. Others like Gill or even Matthew Henry believe it was written after the return of the remnant from Babylon. It's not critical that we know precisely when it was written. However, it may give us more insight as to exactly what distress the Psalmist desires for his beloved nation to be delivered from. Whenever it was, it's certain that some enemy was threatening and the land itself seemed to be rather unproductive.

The Psalmist realizes the state of Israel was the result of their sin. However, God had forgiven their sin and withdrawn His wrath before. The Psalmist petitions God that this may be repeated again. We read, *"Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" (Psalms 85:4-6)*. Having known God's mercy...having experienced His forgiveness, the Psalmist longs for it again – not only for himself, but also for the land of Israel as a nation. *"Restore us again"*, he says. *"Will you not revive us again"*, he writes. The former glory of Israel is what the Psalmist longed for.

Clearly, the primary application of this Psalm is the restoration of God's chosen earthly people. However, we do often use the word "revival" in a similar sense today. And certainly, a comparison can be made between the revival the Psalmist asks for and the revival we find ourselves praying for. They are certainly not absolutely equivalent. But, they have some similarities. It should be pointed out that when we speak of revival, we generally think of personal revival – that is, regaining that excitement we had as a newborn babe in Christ. Yet, sometimes we look back on a period of time and see that there was a more community-wide time of revival. We will quickly consider both.

God had certainly delivered Israel in the past. They could have looked back to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for proof of this. They could have reflected on the Exodus. They could have considered the times of conquest under the leadership of Joshua. Throughout the period of the judges, God raised up deliverers for the people. The list goes on and on. Continually, God had seen the affliction of Israel and risen up as their Deliverer.

The same is true for us. *"Even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:5)*. God delivered us from that state of hostility against Him and His kingdom. *"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8)*. As we grow in Christ and age in the flesh, more and more we see God's deliverance in our lives. More clearly than ever, we see that God said "no" oftentimes to our prayers that we felt we "needed" only to see that He knew best. As we reflect on God's deliverance in our lives (from spiritual death and often physical ailments), we gain more confidence that He can deliver us in the future. We, like the Psalmist, pray based on God's power that has been displayed time and time again to us.

God had been faithful to His promises to Israel all along. They had been unfaithful. One needs only read a few paragraphs following the miracles in Egypt to find this out. Israel's history is one of unfaithfulness. But God has always been faithful to His promises to them. Let us remember, *"God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind" (Numbers 23:19)*. Certainly, the Psalmist here recognizes both the unfaithfulness of his own people and the faithfulness of God. His confidence for deliverance is founded upon God's faithfulness to His promise.

Every child of God experiences times when we aren't as faithful as others. This certainly includes pastors. When we arrive at church for worship, we all have the ability to "put on" a more godly appearance. Many look around the church house and are bothered greatly that they are seemingly the only ones struggling through life. In their minds, they are the only ones that ever find themselves broken inside. But that's not the case. As a pastor, I can attest that there are weeks I struggle. This may be due to a busy schedule. This may be due to normal problems in life – compounded, at times. This may be due to my own lack of dedication. Whatever the reason, those weeks are harder to prepare a sermon for. The congregation often doesn't see this. Even my wife may not. But those weeks happen. Yet, even during those times, God remains faithful. He is always faithful to do what He has promised. We must learn to lean on Him.

It appears Israel was submitting to God and resisting the devil as the Psalmist cries out for renewed revival – *"Restore us again"...* *"Will you not revive us again"*. It's possible, I suspect, that the Psalmist alone felt this way. But the inclusive language seems to suggest that the people as a whole desired revival. They had sinned and they had confessed it. They had turned from their idols to the living God. Now, they are crying out to

Him for revival.

Without question, we often miss revival because we merely pray for it without any move on our part towards it. I've often heard men in the pulpit say, "Only God can grant revival. We have no part in it whatsoever". Now, I don't necessarily disagree with this as long as we mean the larger community-wide revivals. But if we are speaking of personal restoration...personal revival, we are called upon to move in the right direction. Children of God aren't going to be revived apart from God's Word. Children of God aren't going to be revived apart from meeting with God's children in times of worship. Children of God aren't going to be revived as long as we refuse to repent of our own sins and seek God's will in our lives. We are plainly told to "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you*" (James 4:7-10). There is a promise here that our relationship with God will be restored...will be revived if we draw near to Him.

Now, as I said earlier, sometimes when we refer to revival, we speak not so much of personal or even congregational revival. Sometimes we speak of revival in a larger community-wide revival – like a movement. This is different altogether. Without question, God's churches can be more faithful in doing His commands. We can become more committed to carrying forth the Commission. Sadly, I see many churches dying all over our land. The congregation is often told it's because people don't want "the truth" anymore. Without question, that's not entirely wrong. People certainly don't want the truth anymore. But, man is no more depraved today than he was 2000 years ago. Some of the communities Paul worked in were horrendously evil. Yet God chose to bless his efforts. I fear one of the main reasons our churches are dying is self-inflicted. Simply, we do not carry forth the Commission. Our churches for the most part are not active whatsoever in community-wide outreach. We have little zeal for lost souls. Our zeal is only "for the truth". But, we need to understand that truth (rightly understood) will be followed by action. Churches with true doctrine ought to be the most active in their communities. In periods of revival throughout church history, we see two things that led such revival – the Word of God preached thoroughly and faithfully, and the Gospel carried forth in the streets to the lost. Now, only God can open the heart of a lost sinner. But this was the case in revivals of the past as well. Our understanding of sovereign grace should drive us into the world to share the Gospel with the lost.

If ever our churches have needed revival, it is now. I fear tradition has trumped truth and proof-texting has replaced sequential expository preaching. Individuals need to cry out to God in repentance as we seek revival through His Spirit. He has promised that He would draw near to us if we draw near to Him. Churches filled with such people should produce congregation that are Commission oriented. We cannot live vicariously through church history. The faithfulness of a church 900 years ago doesn't affect our standing as a church today. The Commission looks forward. The Commission looks out. The

Commission says, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest*" (Luke 10:2).

Revival ultimately is God's Work. This is certainly why the Psalmist cried out to Him to grant revival to His people. That said, let us make sure we are doing what God's Word demands of us. Let us, as individuals and congregations, stop comparing ourselves to others. It's simply impossible to gauge our faithfulness by a faulty standard. Let us look to God's Word and conform to it alone. Then, let us cry out to God for revival. Let us pray that He will "*revive us again*" personally...corporately...and ultimately that this would bleed over into the communities surrounding our churches. He is still in control. He is still able. He is still the God Who revives.



I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the
gods will I sing praise unto thee.
I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy
name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for
thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.
In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and
strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.
All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord,
when they hear the words of thy mouth.
Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord: for
great is the glory of the Lord.
Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto
the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive
me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the
wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save
me.
The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy
mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the
works of thine own hands.

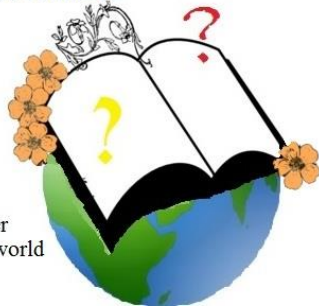
[Psalm 138]



The Forum

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

~ Proverbs 1:5



Questions and Answers to help the believer make sense of our sin filled & confusing world

Coming New Year and Revival

Another year is ending and a new one beginning, what are your expectations for 2017?

Bro. Curtis Pugh (Missionary in Poteau, OK): It seems to me that we can expect what the Bible predicts although I hope that God might give us a respite from at least some of the great evils that are prevalent in our society. I refer specifically to the prophecy found in 2 Timothy 3:12-13 which says: “**Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**” The only valid hope that any of us here on earth have is in Christ and the majority of this world's population have rejected Him and continue to do so.

So we can expect these “evil men and seducers” to increase in numbers, increase in influence and bring about more compromise in the Lord's churches. So mine is not a carefree and happy expectation for this next year looking at the world. However, I am just as confident that God will continue to regenerate and convert His elect and He shall continue to have a remnant of faithful individuals and faithful congregations – not because of anything in mankind, but because of His sovereign will.

Bro. Todd Bryant (Pastor of Sovereign Grace Baptist church Northport, AL): I have no “expectations”, per se. But I do have some goals. I want to grow my own personal walk with Christ. I feel this must always remain a goal for a pastor. This includes more fervent prayer time, more study and more commitment to the things God has told me in His Word I need to commit to (church, family, etc).

January 1 begins another year for reading through the Bible for me. I've done this for years and it has been one of the greatest benefits to my walk with Christ of anything I've one. I hope to finish our current study of the book of Romans this year. I hope to complete our current Systematic Theology study and begin to exposit 1 Samuel. I hope to see more of our folks take a leadership role in the church. I hope to see more people in our community touched by the ministry of the church here in Northport.

I hope to become a better husband and father this year. I hope to finish homeschooling a 10th grader and begin 11th grade. I hope to be a dedicated son to parents that are getting older. I hope to touch those I see on a regular basis with the Gospel in my own personal life.

As far as a personal hobby goes, my homeschooler and I took up disc golf as a hobby this year. We needed a “PE class”. Hey...it's free! I hope to get my drive to go further.

Bro. Jeff Short (Pastor of Charleston Baptist Congregation in Charleston, WV): If anything, the last few years should have taught us to be very careful in our prognostications of the future. I don't know how anyone could have predicted very far in advance some things that have happened. I don't think anyone knows what year one of a Donald Trump presidency is going to look like, including Donald Trump. Rather than speculating about what might happen, I will try to lay out a few things that I believe are in front of us.

A lot of time, energy, and passion have been invested in the effort, or the call, to overturn Roe v. Wade for over 30 years. I pray that continues. However, we must go and do likewise now with Obergefell v. Hodges. Many supposedly conservative politicians have taken the attitude toward Obergefell that it is settled law now and we should just move on. That has not been acceptable for Christians concerning Roe v. Wade and it shouldn't be acceptable regarding Obergefell v. Hodges.

In this vein, I'm sure we can expect more “preachers,” “churches,” and “denominations” to suddenly discover that same-sex marriage is perfectly compatible with the Bible. We've already seen that some and it's only going to increase. The pressures to conform to the new morality will intensify throughout this year.

Politically, 2017 is the time to advance a truly conservative agenda. All the talk of reforms and the third-party passions have died out. If any true political change is to be made, it's not going to come about by strong passions for only six months before a major national election.

Many things could be said concerning the Lord's churches. The Lord's churches have been promised perpetuity and so we know they won't die in 2017. That doesn't mean they won't be persecuted. The American culture is increasingly secular and humanistic. Children born and growing up in 2017 are facing a much more antichristian world than I did or the generation before me. Pastors need to be aware of the constant attack on the faith and help to strengthen and stabilize their people in the face of it.

Things are changing evangelistically as well. I know I have been guilty of assuming too much common understanding. For instance, many people today have no real understanding of sin and we cannot assume they do. I'm certainly not suggesting we change the Gospel, but only that we probably need to start further back than what we have been used to.

I'm sure more could be said, but I will leave off with one final thought. 2017 could be the year Jesus returns, so what manner of persons ought we to be?

What is revival, what is its character and function?

Bro. Curtis Pugh: I am convinced that the primary character and function of revival is the stirring up of zeal and devotion of God's children. As someone said, you must have the "vival" before you can have the "re" if that gets the idea across. The word revival does not have to do with the giving of life or bringing of salvation, but rather the renewing of or stirring up of life within God's children. As a bed of coals may need poking and stirring to bring it to active flames, so God's children need an inward, spiritual stirring. Because of our flesh and the world in which we dwell we are often "settled on our lees" as the dregs in wine settle to the bottom.

I have never seen a real revival, although I have heard and read about some. In such times as God grants revival it seems that the Gospel goes forth and lost people are saved although the emphasis is upon the stirring to life of God's people. Such as become revived begin anew to witness and spread the Gospel so that the effects/benefits of true revival are seen in not only God's children, but also in the salvation of the lost.

Bro. Todd Bryant: This is not the easiest question to answer. Revival is not nearly as commonly used in the Bible as one may think. And, when it is used, it's not used in the sense that we often use it. For instance, the primary application for Psalms 85:6 (the text verse for this issue) is the restoration and revival of Israel as a people. As you may see from my "Mr. Practical" article, we can draw some parallels from that. But, it's not the main point.

As to the way WE use the word, revival is used in two ways. Most often, we use revival to speak of an individual or congregation regaining the energy they once had. For the individual, this begins with a submission to God and a commitment to the things of God. *"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8)*. We must pray, fast, study, etc. God's Spirit is going to revive his people through His Word. *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*. If a child of God is to be revived, he must forsake some hindrances in this world and seek God through His Word. This certainly includes assembling with the saints of God. The congregation that seeks revival is much like the individual. A revived congregation is going to be full of revived individuals.

The second way revival is seen is broader. Communities or regions are often revived through the Gospel. When this happens, churches carry forth the Commission and the Spirit of God opens hearts. This type of revival is generally seen in hindsight. "Revival" in this sense is common language these

days. However, most of these "movements" are nothing more than Charismatic chaos. The majority of people don't leave such meetings trusting Jesus. They leave "excited" – but not excited about the Lord and His Word. God is the Author of true revival in this sense and will be seen as a period of repentance from sin, faith in the Savior and a commitment to serve God through His church as she preaches the Word faithfully.

Bro. Jeff Short: The common word for revival in the Old Testament means to make alive and is sometimes translated quicken. The well-known verses that speak of reviving or revival are actually about the future salvation and restoration of Israel (Psalm 85:6; Hosea 6:2; 14:7; Habakkuk 3:2). In Ezekiel 37, Israel is represented as a valley full of very dry bones, i.e. dead without life. God revives those bones so that they live and he shall do likewise in the Day of the Lord when he purges the nation with judgment and raises the remnant he has preserved.

After 70 years of exile in Babylon, there was a partial return to Jerusalem. This partial return was a preliminary and lesser fulfillment to the promises of the restoration of the elect remnant from all the tribes of Israel. Even that return was spoken of in terms of "revival" by Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 9:8-9; Nehemiah 4:2).

When we speak of revival today, we generally have a couple of different things in mind. Most people think about a series of special meetings with revival preaching and revival singing. Such meetings are short-lived, as the "evangelist" seems to take revival with him when he leaves town. They can generate a lot of excitement and most people are satisfied with that.

The other sense of revival is actually a biblical sense in the way the Psalmist uses the word quicken in Psalm 119:25, 37, 40, 88, 107, 149, 154, 156, 159. This is a personal plea for a reviving from God. It is a renewal and a restoration of a life to the word and way of God. It involves repentance and a return to truth and a renewal of holy zeal (Psalm 51:10). It can be thought of as a time of refreshing and we are exhorted to it in the New Testament (Romans 12:1-2; 13:11; 1 Corinthians 15:34; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10).

Unfortunately, because of our human weakness, we do drift and grow dull. We need to be revived so that we are returned to close fellowship and communion with God. Revival reignites our zeal for the things of God and holiness. We need constant realignment, though this might also be looked at as progressive sanctification.

Is there a human responsibility to bring about revival or it is a blessing God pours out on his people?

Bro. Curtis Pugh: It seems clear to me that revival comes as a sovereign act of God in which He is the cause. The Psalmist prayed thus: **"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"** (Psalm 85:6). And the prophet quoted God as saying, **"For thus saith the high and lofty One that**

inhabith eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and 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,” (Isaiah 57:15). So in these two verses it seems that prayer, contrition and humility are characteristics of those whom God revives.

Someone said that it is our pride that keeps us in this spiritually dull state of lukewarmness in which we find ourselves. I think also that the love of tradition of American Baptists keeps us dull for God does not bless tradition. Christ's message to the church of the Laodiceans regarding their lukewarm state was this: **“Because 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: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent,”** (Revelation 3:17-19). Again we see that the humility and contrition of repentance is commanded because of and as a remedy to lukewarmness – and being rid of that lukewarmness is revival, is it not?

So while revival is a sovereign act of God, there are conditions that must exist in order to experience true revival, it seems to me. May God create in each of His children that humility, contrition and continual attitude of repentance so that He might, if it is His will, pour out true revival in our day. I, as would many others, would rejoice to see such a thing!

Bro. Todd Bryant: Yes. I think there is some confusion here. God is always the power behind revival. However, this doesn't limit our responsibility to submit to His leadership and do the things we have been called to do. As a pastor, I see believers with different levels of commitment – *“some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”* Every pastor can attest to this, I'm sure. Those that commit more to church, personal devotions, prayer, etc. are far more likely to live in a spiritually encouraging way. Those that aren't as committed simply aren't as likely. Jesus knew that would be the case when He taught the Parable of the Sower. It remains true today.

We certainly trust in God to bring revival. But, we cannot sit on our hands and do nothing while we wait.

Bro. Jeff Short: There are men and women running around all over the country, and the world for that matter, trying to manufacture revival. There has lately been a resurgence of the tent meeting and crusade-style meetings because it is believed there is some special power in a tent. That will be chased after until the next big “revival” happens in another way and then everyone will be chasing that. I have written a few words about this over at Short Booklog, if you're interested (<http://www.shortbooklog.com/review-billy-graham-the-pastors-dilemma/>).

Strangely enough, we do not have a single command nor a single example of a person bringing about revival in the Bible. If we have a proper biblical understanding of revival, we will recognize there is no way a person could bring it about. Our responsibility is always fixed by the Word of God. We are to confess our sins, forsake our sins, believe God, and walk humbly in his ways. We are to love God with our all and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We are to bring forth the fruits of righteousness and manifest the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. We are to walk in conformity to the Lord Jesus Christ and he is to be our first love.

We are not told in the Bible to chase after momentary euphoric thrills and emotional highs in crusades or other special services. We are told to walk with God day by day and to daily pray: “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen” (Matthew 6:9-13).



Does Our Church Need Revival?

by Bro. M. J. Seymour, Sr.
(From his devotional book “**From the Pastor** Volume I It is written”)

Part I: The Lullaby Syndrome

Webster defines syndrome as “a number of symptoms occurring together and characterizing a specific disease.”

A church becomes infected with the Lullaby Syndrome when the members surrender to the slumbering tunes of indifference and lukewarm hearts. They are lulled into unproductive apathy in the work to which the Lord Jesus has called them. Their slumbering eyes lose all direction and purpose in the cause of Christ. The membership becomes irritable like little children fighting sleep, and nothing appeases their inner agitations. Petty things become sources of divisions.

In Rev. 3 the Laodicean church is an example of a church infected with the Lullaby Syndrome. Jesus says to them, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” Their state of sleeping in “lala land” while having a total disregard to the spiritual warfare around them makes the Lord of Glory sick to the point of vomiting. It is an abandonment of the living faith delivered unto the prophets, the apostles, and the saints of old. It is falling asleep while on guard duty as the enemies of the truth stalk the church in the darkest of times.

Paul writes: “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light...Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:14,16) Again he writes: “...knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” (Rom. 13:11,12) Hear the alarm! The enemy is upon us! There is far too much dialogue at the well, instead of more laboring in the fields that makes one thirsty for the water IN the well.

Revival means to make alive again. When pastors and church members have been lulled into a spiritual sleep by the soft lyrics of apathy, there is a desperate need for an awakening, a making alive again. When the eyes of the heart become dim and full of sleep, and the sense of urgency is all gone, there is an overwhelming need to hear the alarm for REVIVAL. Awake; revive in the cause of Christ!!!

Part II: The Unresponsive Symptom

“If ye will not hear, and **if ye will not lay it to heart**, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, **because ye do not lay it to heart.**” (Mal. 2:2) “...the whole land is made desolate, **because no man layeth it to heart.**” (Jer. 12:11) “...they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger... yet he **laid it not to heart.**” (Is. 42:24,25)

The Hebrew word rendered “lay to” means to set, make ready, to give serious attention to. It is used in a nautical sense to say that the heart has drifted off course and desperately needs to be set back on a steady course towards the right port of destination.

When disciples of the Lord Jesus allow the uncertain winds of carnality to fill their sails, they are quickly blown off course to wander in the dark and stormy depths of ungodliness. If they will not hear the words of the Captain, if they will not quickly and rightly respond to the commands and warnings of the Keeper of their souls, they will promptly be cast into the violent winds of the fury and anger of the living God. Their blessings shall be turned into curses. Their miserable lives will be filled up with despair and desolation. They will find no peace, no rest, and no refuge because they have refused to respond to the Captain’s order to correct the course of their hearts, to realign themselves upon the course of true righteousness. The peaceful sea will churn into raging waves of the fury of God’s anger. Their lives will be cast upon the jagged rocks of despondency.

When church members refuse to hear the messages and warnings of God, which go forth to correct the course of drifting hearts and lives, and commands of the Captain fall upon unresponsive hearts, it is a positive symptom that the church needs revival. When the dispatched Word comes knocking upon one’s heart and he will not receive it, because he insists it is for the sinner next door, that individual is in need of revival. When church members are indifferent and unresponsive to the preached Word, there is no doubt the church needs revival. “Lay to” your hearts and hear the Captain of your souls!

Part III: The Unwilling Symptom

“Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?” (I Chron. 29:5) This question was presented by King David to the nation of Israel so that the House of God would be built with willing hearts. The service to which he asked them to devote themselves of its very nature required spiritually surrendered hearts so that all would be absolutely acceptable unto God. Godly service requires purity of heart and a dedicated life that has purposed to be found pleasing unto God. One must be willing in all holy things for His sake.

Too often, as congregations assemble, there are those who do not attend because they have unwilling hearts toward God. Even among those who do attend, there are those who are unwilling to receive the Word of God, unwilling to respond to the Word of God, unwilling to obey the Word of God, and unwilling to participate with God and the Lord Jesus in the Kingdom work. They are unwilling to be saved, unwilling to be baptized, unwilling to join the church, unwilling to pray, unwilling to sing, unwilling to read and study, unwilling to repent, unwilling to give, unwilling to have a willing heart, and unwilling to change their character and life style. They are unwilling because they know not God, or because they are in rebellion against Him. An unwilling heart is a symptom of serious spiritual problems.

Revival in the times of King Jehoshaphat was characterized by men’s hearts being lifted up in the ways of the LORD, and there was a willingness of the people to offer themselves sacrificially unto God. True revival will come when arrogant pride is turned

into godly humbleness, when hearts pray and seek the face of God, when believers offer themselves as living sacrifices unto the LORD, when rebellion turns to obedience, when the unwilling are changed to the willing and cry out “Hear am I, LORD, what would You have of me,” and when hearts are made willing in the ways of the LORD. When the Spirit flourishes within the heart, the soul becomes anxious towards God. The focus of life becomes “not my will but Thine, O LORD! Self-centeredness will become lost in Christ-centeredness. If the members of a church are not willing to consecrate themselves unto the Lord Jesus who died for them, the church is in need of REVIVAL!

Part IV: The Worldly Symptom

The Apostle Paul wrote: “...Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed...” (II Tim. 4:10) These words have too frequently been the heart’s companion of a devoted pastor. There is a tremendous sense of helplessness to watch church members forsake the paths of righteousness to run after their love for the things and the people of this world. Yet, it is not so much a forsaking and departing from the pastor as it is from the Lord Jesus Christ. The truth is, they forsake Jesus and depart from His presence.

The Apostle James unveiled this forsaking and departing as spiritual adultery when he wrote: “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4) When believers turn from their love of God and chase a love for this world, they are guilty of spiritual adultery. Their love affair with the elements of this world places them in the dangerous predicament of being an enemy of God. This by holy necessity calls down upon the guilty chastisement and suffering that it may bring forth repentance with godly sorrow. A church can be equally guilty.

The Apostle John instructs: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (I John 2:15,16) One who abandons his love of God purposes to fill up his lust of the flesh, his lust of the eyes, and his pride of life, these being the driving forces in the love of this world. God’s love cannot and will not co-exist with love for this world. One’s heart and a church must cling to one and abandon the other.

When a church forsakes the spiritual for the worldly, it becomes an enemy of God and is in severe need of REVIVAL. Church members ought to examine the driving forces of their hearts. Is the Spirit motivating the heart to spirituality, or is the sinfulness of the flesh demanding the fruits of worldly lusts? If a church has abandoned the ways of righteousness in favor of emotional rationalizations to be like the world, then that church is in urgent need of REVIVAL!!

Part V: The Prayer Deficiency Symptom

Prayer is that special privilege ordained by God by which His children are able to fellowship and communicate with Him. God is not impressed with the outpouring of theatrical humanistic religionism. Instead, God bends His ear and heart

toward the sweet tears of a quite, humbled, obedient heart. It is not the loud musical pomp and ceremonial parade that draws His attention. It is the sound of tears flowing down the sides of Spirit-filled hearts that makes the greatest impact in the heart of our Heavenly Father. It is a gracious thing for God to listen to prayers, for He is not under any obligation to do so. We are instructed in the Holy Scriptures to be “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.” (Eph. 6:18) Also, we are to “pray without ceasing.” (I Thess. 5:17) That is, faithful believers and churches are to be obedient in constant, persistent, untiring, sleepless prayer under the searching of the Holy Spirit. A church is suffering the Prayer Deficiency Symptom when it habitually neglects to seek the ear of God through the duty and privilege of constant prayer.

If the child of God relaxes in his prayers toward the Father, Satan and the demons of Hell will triumphantly succeed in ensnaring him. The greatest enemies of the believers are not seen by the eyes but are cloaked in spiritual darkness stalking and awaiting vulnerable prey. When the believer falters on his power rejuvenating prayer life, he falls victim to the roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The believer must be ever vigilant upon bended knees for the devourer is ever crouching near. A church must not neglect the security of prayer; if it does, there is a desperate need of REVIVAL.

If one’s life seems dashed upon the rocks, it is because he has neglected the security of prayer. If one has no need of prayer, it is because he does not know God. If one has no power with God or in His work, it is because he has not exercised his duty and privilege to speak into the ear of God. If a church is not burdened for the lost souls in the fields around it, it is because it is not hearing the tender voice of God in prayer. If a church is deficient in heart wrenching prayers before God, it needs REVIVAL. Prayer is the very lifeline of a church’s healthiness and continual existence for generations.

Part VI: The Neglecting of the Word of God Symptom Psalm 119

2. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.
6. Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.
9. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.
11. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
16. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.
34. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
59. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.
67. Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.
97. O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.
103. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
105. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

130. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
 133. Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.
 140. Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.
 148. Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.
 161. ...my heart standeth in awe of thy word.
 162. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.
 "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:25-27) If a church is not washing regularly with the Word of God, it stinks of sin, and it is in grave need of REVIVAL!

Part VII: The Lack of Generosity Symptom

"Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit **of the grace of God bestowed on the churches** of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and **their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality**. For to their power, I bear record, **yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves...**" (II Cor. 8:1-3)

Few church members understand that one of the graces of true Christian character is the grace of LIBERAL giving. It is an exhibition of the indwelling Christ. God gave us an example by the giving of His Son for our salvation. Jesus gave Himself as the Lamb slain unto death to purchase forgiveness of sin and eternal life for every believer. Every genuine believer is acutely aware that he has been on the receiving end of the greatest act of the grace of giving. The saints unsurprisingly have the same love of giving as that of the Father and the Son. The grace of giving is part of the saint's spiritual DNA.

Jesus said the poor widow with only two mites to put into the treasury had cast more in than all the rich folk, who gave only a little token gift. "For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury (*poverty*) hath cast in all the living that she had." (Lk. 21:4) Would to God such great love for the Kingdom of God could be found in the churches today! This type of godly giving requires sacrifice. King David said: "...neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing." (II Sam. 24:24) The problem is - few are willing to give sacrificially. Some keep their eyes on the church budget, giving only enough to ensure it is met. Some give their little token gift quarter, whether they need to or not. Some refuse to give. Some "*can't afford to give.*" Some just "ain't gonna give to that there preacher."

It is written: "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." (II Cor. 9:6) Also: "For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Lk. 6:38) Everyone receives in the same manner in which he is giving. If church members are lacking in the God-like grace of generosity, then the church needs **REVIVAL!**

Dangerous and Demeaning Doctrinal Deviations

by Bro. Wm. Doyal Thomas

(First published in *The Baptist Herald*)

There are some very dangerous and demeaning deviations from doctrinal soundness manifesting themselves today among the identified body of professed followers of Christ. Dangerous not as to their capacity to dethrone God and topple His government, but rather dangerous to the children of God as to their faithful adherence to the directions that God has graciously supplied for their well being, growth, and maturing toward greater worship and service.

These same doctrinal deviations are demeaning to the perfect and holy character of God. They all attack Him by attacking His Word, and they seek to cast improper reflections upon His veracity, omniscience, and immutability. They dishonor God, and being not of faith, are themselves sins against the Holy and Righteous God. They are sin, and they must be identified as sin and God's little ones warned to flee from them, both as to commission, and also as to being a partaker of the evil contained in these sins by complacency and by passively bidding God speed to those who walk therein.

I will mention just two of the most odious and dangerous at this time because of the limits of space to present and condemn all that could be named. Perhaps future opportunity will be found to deal with others, or perhaps other writers will be encouraged to join in the confrontation of error, that, if left unchallenged and undisturbed, will, without fail, ultimately lead to heresies that will have damaging effect upon God's children and His precious churches.

The two matters that I will call attention to at this time are the heresy of amillennialism on the one hand, and universal churchism on the other. These two are grievous errors, and they become heretical when continued to a point of practice and propagation. These two are separate and distinct, but there does appear (to myself, at least) to be a common thread that connects these two together. That common thread is grounded in improper hermeneutical views of the Scriptures and what the Scriptures teach.

I suggest that the practice of "spiritualization" rather than interpretation is a major factor in these errors, and that those who imbibe one or both these errors, soon to become if not already, heresies, have indeed gone the way of spiritualizing an erroneous solution to a literal teaching. Thus, they who practice such are steadily and regularly "painting themselves into a corner," from which there is no easy route to extrication without the pride slaying admission that they are totally wrong and their avowal to come back to the same exact point from which they departed from the faith. And vain, depraved man is naturally reluctant to make such an admission and to retreat. May God enable all (myself included) to cease from proceeding further in whatever

error and folly we are engaged in, and to come back to the old tried and true, Bible placed landmarks from which men depart. Should the grace of God lead one to do so, they will find that God is exactly where He was when the departure occurred.

Many men whom I have known and loved in the Lord for years have been lured into one or more errors of this sort, and my heart yearns for them and for the sweet fellowship that once we enjoyed with them and perhaps took for granted. But, I cannot, and by God's wonderful grace, will not, dishonor Him by following them in their error simply to have a fellowship appearance, which is not an actual fellowship, but rather a perversion and a pretense. I am not immune from the same, or other error, and I pray God will keep me from error, as I pray He will recover those who have strayed.

I love my dear brethren, and I love the Lord's churches who are infected with these contagions, and I pray for them all. But, brethren, I love my God and His Word more than I love you. If there must be departure from brethren, then let that departure be in the defense of truth and for contention for the faith as once was delivered to the saints. Let God's children and God's churches clearly recognize this evil, and let all seek the enabling grace of God to stand firm and steadfast against both these and all other grievous and damaging errors and heresies.

To those who "spiritualize" rather than "rightly divide", may I pose some questions to you? I ask you to look inward to yourselves and face these questions honestly and squarely. "Where do you stop?" "What guidelines have you been taught by your mentors, or have arrived at by your own superior intellect or scholarship that enables you to keep your wanderings through the Scriptures on safe ground?" "Which Scriptures are you free to 'spiritualize' a false meaning to, and which are you, even yourselves, required to interpret literally?"

Consider this: If you assume privilege to say that the thousand year reign of Christ upon the throne of David is **NOW** in progress, OR that such a literal reign will NEVER occur, why don't you just assume to declare also that there is no heaven, or no hell, no God at all? (Millennium equates to one thousand years, while A- millennium means, NO THOUSAND YEARS. So, since Theism relates to God, then A-theism means, NO GOD.) Are you willing to use the same privilege that you have assumed is yours to spiritualize in this manner? Are you willing? Why not? How many of you, or those whom you may lead into this error (heresy), know the difference? When may you spiritualize and when must you interpret in accordance with the Word?

Amillennialism is not a Bible position, and such can never be sustained by the teachings of God's Word. When all the amillennialists of all the world have spiritualized to their utmost, Revelation, Chapter 20 will still be true. And six (6) times in that one chapter, God uses the literal expression, "one thousand years." You can't get around it. It's still there! And in addition to this indisputable fact, the Scriptures of both the Old and the New Testament abound with prophecies relative to the second coming of Christ and all that this stupendous event entails.

Likewise, the universal church advocate uses this same method (?) to come to his stated position of a "true church" as taught in the Scofield Reference Bible and in numerous other "protestant" outlets. Even mainline religious bodies of many and various stripes today have "assumed" such a position as a universal church of some sort, either visible as do the Roman Catholics, or invisible as do the Protestants. None of these, however, have ever seen such a monstrosity, nor have they known of such. They have only imagined it to be so, and have, and do blindly follow the leader into deeper and deeper heresy and absolute violence to proper and God honoring belief of the truth and use of the Scriptures.

In my estimation, the universal church error (heresy) is perhaps the most dangerous of these great heresies of our day. More people are being led down this evil path that appears so logical than most of us are willing to admit. And this grave heresy is sure to lead those who are ensnared by its subtlety into more and more heresy, until there is no end. Error begets error, and error practiced becomes heresy, and heresy begets more heresy, and all the time of this unholy progression downward from simple, literal truth brings greater and greater shame and reproach upon our dear Lord and upon His beloved blood bought church.

Brethren, I believe the time is well past for the Lord's churches and His people to take a stand against such and say, "NO MORE." No longer can we sit silently while the advocates of these and other heresies go unchallenged and unopposed. It is high time we awake from our sleep and contend for the faith as was once delivered to the saints. We did not receive the teaching of the Word of God in this perverted manner, and neither can we, honorably, remain silent in order to avoid offending someone whom we have known and loved, or perhaps have never known. We must take up our position in open defiance of such heresy and say that we are willing to fight the good fight of faith. And we must prayerfully seek wisdom and strength from our dear Lord so that we may do more than give "lip service" to these matters. We must seek the grace and strength to stand and to fight if necessary for the cause of God and truth.

Who is on the Lord's side? Is there not a cause? The clarion call goes out to all the saints of God and to all His churches, and we must not be slackers in our duty to be faithful proclaimers and defenders of the Word of God. We must no longer seek to "straddle the fence," for in doing so, we dishonor God, and we even give aid and comfort to those who oppose themselves as they teach a doctrine of their imagination that flies in the face of the teaching of the Bible.

If I must stand alone, then I will, by God's grace, stand alone. I am not brave, and I do not want to stand alone, but, I will stand alone as God enables me if that be the case. I can no longer forbear these errors, and I can no longer avoid taking a stand for the truth, as it must be taught, and as it must be practiced.

Views From Canada

Of old hast thou
laid the foundation
of the earth: and
the heavens are the
work of thy hands.

Psalms 102:25

with Sis. Grace Brooks



The Elijah List

Something exciting is about to happen in Canada. This so-called revelation come from men like Rick Joyner, Bobby Conner and other "prophets" like them.

"Oh, Canada, God is making you a true north to many," says one of the "prophets." What a mockery to the country of Canada.

This means the start of an enormous shift in Canada that changes the spiritual outlook. Business personnel will join the "revival" all over the land, and of course, government officials start coming to Jesus in great numbers.

In Alberta supposedly converts, with God's glory, arrive daily and in great numbers. Shultz says, "There is an awesome pouring of the Holy Spirit in Canada." More like a satanic spirit than the holy spirit.

The first questions that might come to any Canadian's mind is this: What exactly is the Elijah List?

In this article I will attempt to answer that question plain and simple. I will also explain the movement's origins and purpose.

This list is supposed to transmit around the world, supposedly in agreement with God's Holy Word, prophetic "daily manna" from the Lord, concerning these last days. The list has grown to 148,000 subscribers.

How did the list get started? In the early 1900's a man, Stephen Shultz was supposed to have received prophetic words from another prophet. The prophet's words were, "You will be connecting profits by computer."

Shultz says he had experienced prophetic dreams before he heard these words. Now his "prophetic Dreams" and prophesying increased. He started taking prophetic classes through CI out of Florida. He asked to join the pastoral staff of his local church. Now he travels into Canada, along with other prophetic families, and attends Prophetic conferences around the world.

Where did all this originate? Historically, Canada is known to be the spawning place for some of God's supposedly great moves starting in the United States.

Along with the Nashs, and another family, the Bentlys, from

Front Line Worship Centre, Shultz, traveled all over Canada to fire up the revival fires. Soon, if not already, they will be in Toronto, Canada.

They expect something big to explode, like a huge revival touching all parts of Canada.

Canadians study up on these so-called profits, another deceitful outpouring from the United States, and let us not be deceived yet again.

Read for yourself the Elijah List website: "[Revival Alert! Prophetic Words For Canada and For This Weekend!](#)" (posted in Map of 2016) & "[What is the Story of the Elijah List?](#)" (If the hyper links don't work they are http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=16124 & www.elijahlist.com/ourhistory.html respectively)

Then study your Bible and see if these men and women are from God. Then see what God has to say about "prophets" in the end time.

2 Peter 2:1 &2 *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."*

Psalms 119: 104, 128

Isaiah 9: 15-16

Jerimiah 5: 30-31

Zechariah 10:2

Matthew 24:24 says many false prophets will arise and deceive many.

How to you distinguish false prophet? Matthew 7:15-16

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

False prophets are dangerous because they appear to be working under the influence of the Holy Spirit. They may even perform miracles.

They may hold high positions religiously and in church leadership. he may bear the title Reverend or Doctor in front of his name. False prophets speak from their own "revelations" and not under God's authority.

Jerimiah 23: 16, 21,25.

They do not defend God's word. Jerimiah 23:17 *"They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you."*

They tell people exactly what they want to hear.

In contrast a true prophet is sent by God and he works through

the Holy Spirit. He lifts Jesus up and edifies the church. Speaks according to the Bible. Isaiah 8:20 *“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”*

Points people to Jesus. God's prophesy must come to pass.

Biblical Economics

And let us not be weary
in well doing: for in due
season we shall reap, if
we faint not.

Gal. 6:9

with Bro. Blaine Conzatti



“The Bible and Income Inequality”

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders built his platform on the promise of reducing economic inequality. He repeatedly proclaimed his belief that “the issue of wealth and income inequality is the great moral issue of our time.”

While “income inequality” is a favorite rallying cry for socialists everywhere, the Bible doesn't denounce wealth or material possessions, nor does it indicate that economic inequality is somehow morally wrong.

Many of the Bible's great men came from considerable wealth. Instead of condemning these men for their affluence, the Bible seems to laud their riches. For example, Abraham “was very rich in livestock, silver, and in gold” (Genesis 13:2, NKJV). Similarly, King Solomon's treasures were unequaled. After Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge to rule over Israel rightly, God promised to give him “riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like” (2 Chronicles 1:12, NKJV). Likewise, before the devastating events of Job's namesake book unfolded, he was more prosperous than anyone else in the East. Furthermore, God doubled Job's wealth after his period of tribulation (Job 42:12).

We can use our resources and property for many moral purposes. These moral purposes include providing for our family's needs (1 Timothy 5:8), investing and saving for the future (Ecclesiastes 11:2; Proverbs 21:20), voluntarily giving to those in need (Hebrews 13:16; Proverbs 21:13), and providing for the work of the church (Proverbs 3:9; Philippians 4:15-18). But it is also

morally good for us to use our material possessions for our own enjoyment, offering thanksgiving to God for all He has provided. Paul tells us as much, writing that God “gives us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17). Yet many people criticize those who live in abundance as if it is morally wrong to have more material things than others.

The Parables of the Minas (Luke 19:11-27) and the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) serve as relevant biblical case studies. In these parables, a master who is leaving town gives talents or minas (denominations of money) to each of his servants, telling them to “engage in business until I return.” When the master returns, he finds that two of his servants invested his money and made a profit, but one of his servants unwisely refused to invest his money and failed to make a return. The servant who made the greatest return on investment is given the greatest reward, whereas the servant who declined to invest his money has his property taken from him. Through the means of divine providence and the laws of economics, God acts the same as the master in the parable. God has given larger tasks to some people that require many resources, and He has also given smaller tasks to others that need fewer resources. Our responsibility is to be faithful stewards of the resources God has given us, trusting in His sovereignty without envying those who have been given more.

What causes inequality? Assuming there is no fraud or theft, inequality results from only three things:

First, inequality often results from some people working more hours than others. King Solomon affirmed this truth: “Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread” (Proverbs 12:11, ESV). Conversely, those who work fewer hours live in less abundance since laziness leads to poverty (Proverbs 6:10-12). Unsurprisingly, a study by the Brookings Institution found that the poverty rate would decrease by 42% if all poor families had one full-time worker earning the same hourly rate he or she makes now.

Second, inequality arises when one person is more productive, and uses resources more efficiently, than another. The person who can produce 50 units per hour will receive a bigger reward than the person who can produce only ten units per hour. Like the servant in the Parable of the Talents who doubled his master's money through prudent investing and being more productive than the others, those who exhibit greater industry receive a larger reward.

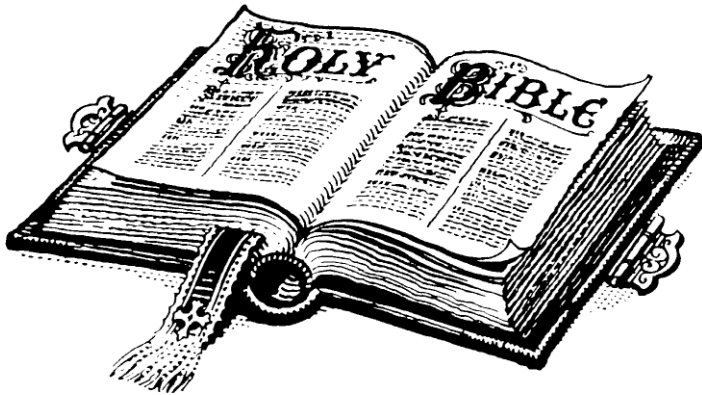
Third, inequality develops when one person produces goods or services that are more highly valued. Engineering and medicine pay more than many other vocations because there is greater demand for engineering and medical services. Using another example, Tony Award-winning actors get paid more money than

those working in local musical theaters because society is willing to pay more to watch them perform.

Economic inequality reflects God's design for the world. Not only has God unequally distributed aptitudes and abilities to men, but he has also structured the laws of economics to reward those who produce goods and services that are highly valued by others, as well as those who use their resources productively and efficiently.

This inequality also provides us with many opportunities to glorify God. Those who have been entrusted with "one talent" can glorify God by faithfully stewarding the resources He has given them, relying upon God's provision without complaining or envying others who have more. On the other hand, those who have been entrusted with "ten talents" can glorify God by using their resources to build wealth, give generously to the church and the poor, and offer thanksgiving to God for the blessings He has provided.

Contrary to the arguments of Bernie Sanders and others, wealth and income inequality is not "the great moral issue of our time." Economic inequality reflects God's design for society, not a moral aberration needing to be eradicated.



Bible Jocks

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

1 Corinthians 9:24



Bigger Than You



Bro. Troy McGahan

Imagine if you will a place in rural America where you have white, black, rich and poor kids all working together and getting along.

Folks in spite of what the main stream media tells you that is happening all across this country and I can tell you from experience that is what is happening right here in Appomattox County, Va. A couple of years ago my family and I moved here to Pastor Friendship Baptist Church.

The area we moved from in rural Ky was not a diverse area. Not that people were racist it's just the way it is with a smattering of red, brown, black or yellow here and there. It was different here, with at least a 25% minority population and overall not a wealthy area either. What I did find though was a community of hard working people that for the most part was friendly and welcoming.

What the Lord was and still is teaching me is people are people no matter what your color or economic status is. Now this gets me back to my point (you thought I was chasing a rabbit). Two years ago this past August the Appomattox County High School football team started a 30 game unbeaten streak and are back to State Champs in their classification.

What is it about these guys that make them so special? Are they bigger than other teams? No, for the most part they are average to slightly undersized. Are they more talented? They are talented but, not more talented than anyone else. The difference is this, they played for something bigger than themselves. When talking to the young men they always talked about playing for their community, coach and each other. You could see a genuine love and concern they had for one another.

In this column we try to make applications between sports and the Bible. My thoughts are this, as God's people we should have

a bigger vision than just for ourselves. Our vision should be first and foremost to honor and glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31) in everything we do. Second, we glorify God by being obedient to God's Word (Matthew 7:24). Third, let's be intentional in our outreach. Look for opportunities to get out of our comfort zones by going into all the world and preaching the Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20) to all kinds of people. Don't just reach out to people like you. Follow the example of Christ, minister and reach out to everyone. Cause everyone needs Jesus.

Historical Marker

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. Psalm 119:99-101



Advice to Children

by Jas. H. Oliphant

From the book: *Principles and Practices of the Regular Baptists* published in 1883

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Society is divided into two classes as respects moral condition, and every reader of these pages who lives to manhood, or womanhood, will take a position in one of these classes. You will be honorable, truthful and chaste; or, you will be dishonorable, a liar, and indecent. You will be intelligent, and have a well-stored mind with useful knowledge, or you will be ignorant. How important it is to you, and to your parents, and to all your friends, that you should be honorable, informed, truthful, and pure in all your moral habits. It would brighten your path through life, and make you an unfailing source of happiness to others. How anxious you should be to attain to this high position in life. "A wise son maketh a glad father," and so thousands of fathers have found it; "but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother." Nothing so gladdens parents as that of seeing their children run in the path of virtue and honor.

It is my desire in these pages to give some hints and suggestions suited to urge and aid you to reach a point of usefulness and happiness. I assure you that much is required of you. You have many things to watch and many to do. One important thing is to *watch yourself*, and another is to *take care of your time*. Your health and strength of body is a matter of *more importance* than you are aware of. You should take care of your strength by temperate habits in everything. Intemperate habits of eating in childhood are followed by bad results in old age. If you could think of it now, while young, and form a habit of regular and temperate eating, it would be a great blessing to you in after life. The habit of being out all night, exposed to all sorts of weather,

in the pursuit of pleasure, is a sad mistake, and too dear a price for pleasure. Regularity of habits in eating, sleeping, and exercise, is of more importance to your happiness amid well being than you can imagine. Your mental powers depend much upon your physical powers. A well developed mind needs a strong physical constitution.

1st - As a rule, it is safe to say that the use of tobacco is no advantage, but a disadvantage to health; besides, it is an expensive, filthy habit that should be avoided. I would recommend that you never begin a habit that is at once injurious, *expensive*, and filthy.

2d - I think that we should discourage the use of spirits. Never treat any one, nor suffer any one to treat you, as a mere compliment. You should not enter inside of a grog-shop, nor form a habit of taking a dram when you go to town. These little beginnings may end in painful results. Thousands have been utterly ruined by spirits; therefore you have reasons to **BEWARE**.

3d - The places you frequent, and the company you keep, will have much to do in moulding your character in the eyes of the world, as well as in fixing the habits that will follow you through life. As the bullet is shaped by the mould, so your habits and thoughts will be shaped by the company you keep. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Persons who drink, swear, or indulge in profanity, are not likely to be of any real use to you. You should never make them feel that you are above them, but you should avoid their society. You should never seek the company of persons unless you feel willing that the public should class you with them, for you will, in the eyes of the public, be classed with the company you keep. "Birds of a feather will flock together," is a saying I heard when I was a boy, and so the masses of men will have it. I read, when a boy, of a dog called Tray, who was sorely beaten for no other thing than that of being found in bad company. It is often the case that young folks are unwilling for parents to choose company for them. As a rule, parents know better what company is best for you to keep, and you should pay *great respect to their judgment* in this matter. Fairs, shows, dances, frolics, etc., are not good places to learn moral habits, and they often prove to be expensive. How desirable that you should reach manhood or womanhood without a spot or stain on your good name. You can not too carefully guard yourself in these things.

4th - Your own good behavior in company will add much to your credit in the world. If your language is habitually chaste, your jests modest and sensible and your actions in good taste, you will be respected. At church, take pains to observe good order, listen to the sermon, no matter how contrary to your opinion, and when meeting is out go quietly out, and indulge in no loud talking or laughing while about the house. Avoid all foppery or strutting in company. These things are disgusting to all sensible people. Never suffer yourself to *talk* in a proud, *whining* manner. Talk plainly, and in the same common way you do at home, or among your schoolmates at school. And walk in a *natural*, easy way in company. It is a sad sight to see young ladies entering church, as we sometimes see them, in a proud and haughty manner.

Strutting shows a want of common sense; therefore avoid it. Don't speak unnecessarily of the faults of others; it will cause them to look for your faults, and you are sure to have them. Never refer to yourself in the way of praise as to your beauty, dress, education, influence, or religion, remembering the old saying, "self-praise is half scandal." The wise man says: "Let another man praise thee and not thine own mouth, a stranger and not thine own lips." You should suffer no one, however ignorant or poor, to think that you are above him in your feelings; remember that "when pride cometh, then cometh shame," and if you are entertaining a proud and haughty spirit it will be followed by shame; "before destruction the heart of man is haughty," and when your beauty, wealth, learning, or good name makes you proud, you have reason to be uneasy. Cultivate a habit of apologizing for the mistakes of others; it will cause others to apologize for you. Form a habit of cheerfulness when in company; it will make your company pleasant to others. Never be hasty to give your advice or opinion, it will cause people to think that you think you are "smart;" and for the same reason, you should not do all the talking yourself, remembering the proverb, "a fool is known by his multitude of words." -- Solomon. Franklin has it: "A still tongue makes a wise head." Make it a point when in company to learn something. If the conversation is unedifying, you could bring up something that would be profitable.

5th - Economy should be carefully cultivated. Your future happiness greatly depends upon it. You must distinguish between *economy* and *stinginess* or *parsimony*. "There is that that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Economy does not forbid charity; it forbids wastefulness. Economy, therefore, is the friend and source of charity; by its practice we are able to supply our own wants and have something for the poor. Remember the saying: "A penny saved is worth a penny earned." "Take care of the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves." A careful, saving wife is worth a dozen of a wasteful, spendthrift disposition. Pride and extravagance are the forerunners of poverty, and often lead to fraud and dishonesty. If you are proud you should mark Solomon's words: "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord." Pride will lead you to desire to live beyond your means, and will ultimately bring you to need. "If you buy what you don't need now, you will, some day, be unable to buy what you do need." Don't form a habit of wanting to buy everything you see, because it is nice; this tempter, if submitted to, will enslave you and your parents; and you should not desire pride to be your master. It is a sad sight to see children dressed in fine clothing and their parents owing for them. A young lady strutting in laces, ribbons and silks, and a mortgage on her father's home, is a woeful sight; what sensible young man would want her for a wife? and of what use or comfort is she to her parents? And so, a young man, dressed in extravagance, and often with a cigar in his mouth, a bottle or revolver in his pocket, or *both*, and a fiddle under his arm presents a sickening sight and yet we often meet with it. Take care of your books, at school and at home; take care of your clothes, don't be ashamed of patched trousers or boots, or of wearing an old hat or bonnet. It is a grand sight to see an intelligent, modest young man or woman at work with patched clothes on, seeing after the farm or kitchen. This is the very foundation of usefulness and success in life. In this way

you save money for future wants, and what sensible person will fail to admire you for it. Never let your merchant think that he can sell you such things as are of no value; he will know that you are worthless as soon as he finds that you will bite at his breastpins, rings, ribbons, silks, perfumery, paint, prize-boxes, and such things as he has only to catch sap heads; let him know that you want no goods except what are of real solid use, and he will admire you for it. *Don't* buy things "*because they are cheap.*" Don't seek to be the finest dressed one at church; always be clean, and keep your clothes so. Don't be stingy; there are things necessary for your comfort; the poor and sick need a little charity; a day's work, or something that you can spare that they need, will help them much, and give them a bright spot in life, and make your conscience feel good; these things you should pay for and do, but bear in mind there are many traps set to catch the fruit of your labor, which you must watch. Every lottery in the land is a swindle, and should be let alone. Keep your eye on our book peddlers, pill peddlers, lightning-rod peddlers, clock fixers, pack peddlers and patent right peddlers, etc., you are in danger of getting bit by them, and when they bite you they will laugh far most at your folly.

6th - Honesty is indispensable to every one who ever expects to be truly great or good. Let it be said "he is honest," and he can get any place he is able to fill; no merchant, banker or officer wants a dishonest clerk; no one wishes to leave or entrust his money or valuables to one he knows to be dishonest. You should use the greatest pains to secure to yourself the reputation of being honest, *and you should feel within that you ARE HONEST.* If you are conscious that you are dishonest, you never can feel that independence that you ought to feel; you can not feel that you are truly noble, for you know that you are not noble. If you want to succeed well, keep a good conscience; and to do this, keep a good opinion of yourself; and to do this, let your plans and actions be such that you are willing for all to know all about them; this will make you feel that you are noble. It will give you a bright clear open countenance, and enable you to face your employer, and face the world and your accusers, and your Creator. You will have a firmness and steadfastness of character that will be of infinite worth to you through life. Many years ago I took particular interest in the sixty-third lesson in the Indiana Fourth Reader, which I would recommend you to study carefully: "If you would have your tongue worth anything to you in business, never employ it to misrepresent things with." "A merchant or tradesman who habitually lies about his goods, will be detected, and then his tongue is useless to him in business." "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord." "The lip of truth shall be established forever." "A just weight and balance are the Lord's." Don't sell anything with a hidden fault; always keep and live above such things as selling over-salted butter, or old feathers for new ones, or spoiled eggs, or tainted meat, or dirty wet rags, or damping your feathers or wool, or greasing your wool with old grease before you sell it, or sprinkling your dried apples or peaches or wool before you sell them, or over-feeding or slopping your hogs or cattle before they are weighed. Never charge an unjust or extravagant price for your work or goods, when it is all left to you. If your merchant makes a mistake in your favor, in counting, weighing, or measuring, or settling, or changing money, always correct; be as ready to correct mistakes in your favor, as you are

those against you. Whatever you find return to its owner. Do no one private injury in his person or property; never circulate a false report about any one. In all I have said I wish you to understand that we should be honest with ourselves; and, therefore, we should ever with manly energy contend for our own rights, while we give others justice. We should do justice by ourselves, therefore in all our buying and selling and mixing with men, we should have an eye to our own rights as well as those of others. In contending for our rights, let us be cautious; law suits are expensive things, and therefore should be avoided; better be loser than make an enemy sometimes. "If you are defrauded and have no other way to get redress, let it go and say nothing." This is better than to add an enemy to the injuries you have already sustained. "Let it pass and afterwards watch."

7th - Faithfulness and punctuality are of vast importance. When you make a promise, however small, charge your mind with it, and do it. If it be to mail a letter, pay a small sum of money, bring some little article from town, or bear a message to a friend, make it a point through life to perform it. It will become a part of your character, and will be of great worth to you. Notice that some men when they promise a sum of money on a certain time, or to be at a certain place, etc., that they are very careful to do it. It is of vast importance to you that when you make a promise people depend on your fulfilling it. In this way you get good credit. Your word becomes as good as your note, with good security. You should set a high estimate on your word, and so live that others will. This is the sure road to usefulness, and happiness, and honor. Young man, *run in it*.

8th - The wise man says: "Hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother." There is no one on earth who has a better right to your obedience than your parents. Children ought to love their parents with a pure and disinterested love. The love of a mother is intense. She has had your interest and well-being at heart from your infancy. You may be sure that she often prays for you, and desires that you may be good and useful. She is pained when she sees your conduct imprudent. You ought, while young, seek to make your parents happy. Make them feel that you love them, and delight to do their wishes. Parents are taught in the Bible to "chasten their children while there is hope." -- Prov. xix, 18. Your parents may find it necessary to use the rod on you, but this they should do in love for you. When you become grown up you will see that the chastisements of parents were a blessing to you. But you should so conduct yourself as to need no correction. If your parents love you they will endeavor to have your conduct good. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." -- Prov. xiii, 24; see, also, Proverbs xxii, 15; and, also, xxiii, 13: "Withhold not correction from the child, for if thou beatest him with the rod he shall not die; thou shalt beat him with the rod and shall deliver his soul from hell." The responsibility of parents is very great. They should have the control of their children, and secure their obedience. When your parents grow old do not forget them; try to make them happy, visit them, and give them the full assurance that you love them. Now, while you are little, they labor for you and study your interest, and so when they are old do not forget it. Give them all the sunshine you can. They will love and appreciate your visits, or presents, or expressions of love. You should not, while young, make your parents blush with shame for

your bad conduct. I have seen parents blush with shame for the ugly conduct of their children. Think of this. You may, when they are dead and gone, regret your course toward them now. Respect them, and the church, and remember that their credit as church members is affected by your conduct. Baptist parents love their children, and long to see them become good and useful; they wish them to be sincere, quiet, truthful and prudent. "Obey your parents" is a commandment of heaven. You should, with utmost care, mind what they tell you. If at times they ask too much, you should nevertheless obey them. It is ruinous to yield to a spirit of disobedience, and will give your parents pain, and you a bad name. Obey your teacher at school. Make him feel that you intend to obey him with pleasure. He will love you, and feel an interest in you, and will abundantly repay your kindness. Doing right is sowing seed that will ripen some time; some will ripen immediately, and some may not ripen for many years, but all will ripen. A good action is never lost; it will bless him who performs it. The "royal path" to honor, usefulness and happiness lies in the unwavering habit of doing right.

9th - "Control your temper." Form a habit of governing your temper. You can accustom yourself to anger on every provocation, or you can cultivate a quiet, even temper. When one is drunk with rage he is not fit to act or speak. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty." "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city." The man who controls his temper while others are abusing him, is a greater conqueror than he that takes a garrisoned city. Your enemy, while in a rage, is a fool, and it is your highest wisdom to make pleasant answers. "A soft answer turneth away wrath." The cold hammer moulds and shapes the hot iron. If you keep cool you may have your own way in the end, and feel much better yourself, and have the approval of others. Never become the settled and fixed enemy of any one, and be careful to make no enemies of this kind. "It is an honor for a man to cease from strife." It often occurs that men disagree in business, and ever afterwards entertain malice to their mutual injury. If possible, avoid this thing. It is far better to have the good will of a man, however worthless and evil, than to have his ill will. Let your course of life be honorable and kind, and you *will have friends*. "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly." Do not become a party to strife between others. You may seek to make peace, but never become a party in strife. Solomon says: "He that passeth by and meddleth with strife is like one that taketh a dog by the ears." He is likely to get bit himself. You should not make friendship with a mad man. If he is now mad and in a rage with another, he will soon be so with you, and you do not need him for an *intimate friend*.

10th - Accustom yourself to diligence in your business. Be willing to work with your hands; this is an honorable and healthy way of gaining a living. Remember that good management is of vast importance; therefore, consider what is best to be done, and when; lay your plans and work to them, and keep up with your business. Know the state of your flocks, your fields, shops, or whatever your business is. Avoid unnecessary bodily exposure, which leads to loss of time from business--and doctor bills. Maintain the purest, friendship with your companion in life, and mutually cultivate a habit of close economy, and you will certainly become a substantial citizen. The man who can manage his own business will be called to take the care of others. "Seest

thou a man diligent in business, he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men."

11th - You will of necessity have to take an interest in the political affairs of our country. We all have reasons to love our government that has for so long a time secured to us the rights we have enjoyed. And you should embrace such views as will best maintain our institutions. Do not be governed by a low *party spirit*, but let your views be elevated, broad, and national; let your aims be to promote the general good, bearing in mind that all the *goodness* is not in one party, nor all the *evil* in the other. These sentiments within you will lead you to talk with moderation to others; your views will be better respected, and your influence greater, by pursuing a conservative course. Be honest and conscientious in your actions, and never seek to carry your ends by unlawful means. Our institutions are in greater danger from bribery than any other cause. If the people are left to act with no influence upon them but reason and sound argument, our government is safe, but if bribery rules we will *drift to ruin*. Never, in any way, countenance unlawful means to carry political ends.

12th - My dear young friend, the Almighty, who upholds all things, has the first and highest claims upon our affections. He is the great source of our being. It is he that keeps us. All our plans will prove worthless without his blessing. We read in his Word: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." He justly claims your love and purest affection. You are under the strongest possible obligation to turn away from sin and its love; and to God, with a true penitence of heart for sin. God's indignation is eternally against sin, and you will not live a life of rebellion against him, and escape his wrath. For sin God once drowned the world; he sent down showers of fire upon the cities of the plain; he directed the entire destruction of whole nations; he destroyed Pharaoh and his host. He is the same God to-day that he was then; his claims are just and reasonable. He claims your heart, your affections and service; and, within, you are convinced that you should give these to him. He will on a time say, "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels," and "These shall go away into everlasting punishment." Those who live lives of sin will make up this company. For sin he spared not his own Son. He will punish sin in his rebellious creatures. Oh child, it is a great thought that you are under the government of God. It may be unpleasant to you to know that you are accountable to God for every evil word, thought, or action; you need not say that you can not repent or turn from sin, or love your Creator; for though that may be true, yet it grows out of your unwillingness to do that which your heart tells you is right, and therefore in your *inability lies your sin*. How needful that you be reconciled to God, that you feel within that there is a settled peace with God, that you enjoy his great approval. You may dam against sin by moral habits, and seek to hedge it in by reformation, but all this will not cure the disease. You must have Christ within you, his own Holy Spirit must renew you. How gracious are his appeals, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Oh, if you were truly weary with sin; if you did but feel a willingness to give the dear Redeemer your whole heart; if you felt within the force of the words, "God be merciful to me a sinner," then all would be easy. Your greatest trouble lies in your fixed love for

evil, and your fixed unconcern about eternal things. In this lies your greatest danger. Do not be deceived about this matter. "You must be born again." Without this your church connection would be of no value, for as the sow returns to her wallow in the mire, so you will return to your sin. The root of sin must be cured or killed within. Never be satisfied about your state religiously, until you feel that you are dead to sin; until you have from your own heart repented of your sin, and realized that God's Holy Spirit bears witness with yours that you are a child of God. With this blessing you are prepared to live, and prepared to die. May God give you this matchless blessing!



Life: The Only Place and Way To Truly Find and Experience it!

by Bro. Donnie Burford

Men may look for many things in many various places and might even find and obtain them in many various ways, But if you are looking for Eternal Life with God, then there is only One Place to both find and experience it, and that Place and Way is Jesus and by Faith in Him!

John 5:39-40; "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*"

John 14:5-6; "*Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*"

John 3:16-18; "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*"

John 10:7-10; "*Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*"

John 10:27-28; "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*"

John 20:31; "*But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*"

Romans 6:23; "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

God Was Manifested in the Flesh

By Bro. Milburn R. Cockrell (1941 - 2002)

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory”
(I Tim. 3:16).

The word “incarnation” comes from the Latin, which means literally “enfleshment” of “the assumption of human flesh.” The Scriptures expressly teach that God became incarnate in the Person of Jesus Christ. This is the basis of the Christian religion. This truth is universally confessed by the Christian church. That the eternal Son of God should become man is an amazing and wonderful affair. It is a great mystery to mankind who cannot account for it by natural reason. But it is most surely believed by all who receive the revelation of God’s Word. Without belief in this fundamental article of faith, you cannot be a Christian. John wrote: *“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God” Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God”* (I John 4:2-3).

THE PRE-INCARNATE CHRIST God revealed Himself in humanity. The Apostle Paul in the text said: *“God was manifest in the flesh.”* This expression presupposes the pre-existence and divinity of Christ. The One Who became flesh was still the same God He had always been. The higher nature of the eternal Son did not cease when He assumed human flesh. The New Testament abounds with many phrases which imply Christ’s pre-existence. The Gospel of John contains most of these statements. *“John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me”* (John 1:15).

Jesus Christ claimed to have descended out of Heaven. He told Nicodemus: *“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven”* (John 3:13).

In John 6:51 our Lord said: *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven.”*

Concerning the Father the Savior declared: *“But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me”* (John 7:29). At another time He informed the Jews: *“Ye are from beneath; I am from above”* (John 8:23).

Sometime later, He said: *“I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me”*
(John 8:42).

It was none other than the eternal Son Who came down from Heaven and became “God with me.” The higher nature of Christ existed from eternity. He took on a human nature some two thousand years ago in Bethlehem of Judah. Jesus Christ was *“the Lord from heaven”* and *“the last Adam”* (I Cor. 15:45-47).

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH The Gospel of John begins with these words: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (John 1:1). Then John tells us: *“And the Word was made*

flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). The eternal Logos Who made all things was made flesh. This statement is unsurpassed by any in the sacred record. The language does not assert the divine Word was converted into flesh. Rather, it declares that He became One of Whom true humanity could be affirmed. The word “flesh” is emphatic. It means the divine Logos took on a true human nature consisting of soul and body. The word “flesh” has this meaning often in the Scripture (Rom. 3:20; I Cor. 1:29; I Pet. 1:24). The Word became personally conscious of all that is strictly human. The eternal Son, though God, subjected Himself to the miseries and calamities of a human nature. He put Himself in the place and condition of other men. He Who dwelt among the angels came to dwell among corrupt and depraved human beings. The word “dwelt” means “tabernacled” or “pitched his tent.” This is a clear allusion to the tabernacle where the Shechinah dwells over the mercy seat. The body of Christ was God’s final and true Temple (John 2:21).

Jesus Christ in His human nature is the true Shechinah. We see *“the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”* (II Cor. 4:6). This is why John says: *“We beheld his glory.”* In Genesis 9:27 God promised to dwell in the tents of Shem. Other Old Testament Scriptures mentioned God’s coming to dwell among Israel (Lev. 26:11; Ps. 68:18; 132:13-14; Ezek. 37:27; Zech. 2:10). These prophecies had a limited fulfillment at Christ’s first advent, but they await an ultimate fulfillment at His return to reign as the Son of man over Israel.

THE SEED OF DAVID In Romans 1:3 it is written: *“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.”* The Second Person of the Godhead was born of the virgin Mary who was of the royal family of King David. Genesis 3:15 disclosed that the Messiah would be *“the seed of the woman.”* Later it was revealed the Redeemer would spring from Abraham, Judah, and finally King David. Matthew 1:1 informs us: *“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”*

THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH Romans 8:3 speaks of the incarnation in this fashion: *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”* The Father sent Jesus Christ, not in sinful flesh, but in the likeness of sinful flesh. He assumed our nature without any taint of sin or corruption (Heb. 4:15; 7:26). He had a nature like that of sinful man, but He did not have a sinful nature. In putting on our flesh He made it His own; in making it His own, He made it sinless. It is marvelous indeed that God should condescend to become flesh. But it is the wonder of the ages that He Who was holy should appear in the likeness of sinful flesh. Christ was not made in the likeness of man before sin entered the world. Instead, He was in the likeness of fallen flesh and subject to all sinless infirmities of the flesh.

MADE OF A WOMAN Paul wrote to the Galatians: *“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law”* (Gal. 4:4). The incarnation took

place at *“the time appointed of the Father”* (Gal. 4:2). In the hour of supermost need, Christ became a man at the best possible moment. God does nothing prematurely. Seeing the end from the beginning, He waited until all was ripe for the execution of His purpose. Man’s inability to save Himself by obedience to the law was completely manifested. The social, political, and moral worlds were fully prepared for His enfleshment. Notice especially the expression, *“sent forth his Son.”*

The One born of a woman was pre-existent with the Father. The Son came forth from the glory He had with the Father. The Divine Son was derived from common stock.

THE FORM OF A SERVANT *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”* (Phil. 2:5-8). He, Who from all eternity was in the form of God, put on the form of a servant. Though on an equality with God, He emptied Himself of the insignia of majesty. It was not possible for Him to empty Himself of His Divine nature and attributes. I understand that He laid aside the form of His Divine glory. Jesus Christ was made in the likeness of men. He was not only human but also Divine, Jesus Christ was found in fashion as a man in manners, gestures, and dress. He was subject to the law (Gal. 4:4) and His parents (Luke 2:51). He probably toiled with Joseph as a carpenter (Ex. 21:5-6); Matt. 13:55). He led a life of humiliation and poverty which culminated with His death at Calvary.

MADE LIKE HIS BRETHREN *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same...he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren. . .”* (Heb. 2:14-17). In order to complete His covenant engagements to redeem those the Father chose to be His brethren, Christ became mortal. Because those to be His brethren were in the flesh, He became flesh and blood. Jesus Christ became our nearest of kin by the assumption of humanity in order to be our Redeemer.

A TRUE BODY The Messiah was no phantom. The incarnation was not merely another Christophany like in Old Testament days. The Son literally took upon Him a true human body. Colossians 1:22 speaks of *“the body of his flesh.”* Hebrews 10:10 mentions *“the offering of the body of Jesus Christ.”* Peter wrote of Christ: *“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree”* (I Pet. 2:24). Jesus Christ was born with this human body. This body grew in stature. The body of Christ was seen and handled by His disciples. His body was buffeted, scourged, bruised, wounded, and crucified. His body was buried and resurrected.

A TRUE SOUL The Lord of glory assumed a true human soul as well as a body. Christ asserted such of Himself: *“My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death”* (Matt. 26:38). Without a human soul He could not have been tempted in all points as we are (Heb. 4:15). A human soul was essential to His sufferings. The Redeemer must suffer in soul as well as in body

to make atonement for the souls and bodies of His people. The Father made *“his soul an offering for sin”* and *“the travail of his soul”* (Isa. 53:10-11). The Son is said to have *“poured out his soul unto death”* (Isa. 53:12). This human soul had a will which was in complete harmony with the Divine will. *“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me”* (John 6:38). In Gethsemane Christ prayed: *“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done”* (Luke 22:42). The human soul of Christ had affections. He is said to have loved the rich young ruler (Mark 10:21), John the apostle (John 13:23), and Lazarus (John 11:36). He is even said to have become angry (Mark 3:5) and to have experienced joy (Luke 10:21).

A TRUE SPIRIT The Second Person of the Godhead assumed a human spirit. If He did not do this, He was not made like unto His brethren in all things. John 11:33 tells us: *“He groaned in the spirit.”* On the cross He cried: *“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit”* (Luke 23:46). It was the human spirit of Christ which grew in knowledge (Luke 2:52) and lacked knowledge in some areas (Mark 13:32).

THE WHY OF THE INCARNATION What was the moving cause which brought the Divine Son from regions celestial to regions terrestrial? It was the mercy and love of God for His people. *“Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us”* (Luke 1:78). *“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him”* (I John 4:9). The kindness and love of God toward man appeared in the incarnate Word (Eph. 2:4-5; Titus 3:4-5). Jesus Christ came into the world that we might behold the glory of God. At His birth the angel sang: *“Glory to God in the highest”* (Luke 2:14). John 1:14 indicates the incarnation was done that men might behold the glory of God. Christ’s human birth declared God’s glory in fulfilling His promises. It magnified the glory of God’s power in the production of Christ’s human nature. The entire ministry of Christ was to *“manifest forth his glory”* (John 2:11).

A third reason for Christ coming into the world was to condemn sin in the flesh. Romans 8:3 might be paraphrased in this manner: *“God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and by a sacrifice for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh.”* The Lord from glory was made in the likeness of sinful flesh and was *“put to death in the flesh”* (I Peter 3:18) to condemn sin in His flesh. Since the death of Christ, the damning and domineering power of sin has been broken. Though sin lives to some degree in the bodies of the saints, by the atonement sin is a condemned criminal. Christ was made sin for us (II Cor. 5:21). Being so made, when He was condemned sin was condemned in His human nature.

Fourth, the fashioning of Christ as a man was necessary to His being made under the law (Gal. 4:4). As God, He was the Lawgiver and above the law. By the Father’s appointment and His own free will, He obligated Himself to keep all the

ceremonial and moral laws perfectly as the representative of the chosen people. He exhausted the full penalty of the law, and thus redeemed His people from the bondage of the law.

Fifth, Christ must come in human form to die for the sins of His people. God could not die, but Jesus Christ could die. II Corinthians 13:4 reveals that *“he was crucified through weakness.”* I Peter 3:18 teaches He was *“Put to death in the flesh.”* To make peace between God and man Jesus Christ must shed His blood. *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby”* (Eph. 2:13-16). Peace has been made between God and man by the blood of Christ. Through faith in that blood the sinner is justified from all his sins, for God justifies the believer (Rom. 3:24-26).

“The Plumb Line”

(A Call To Repentance / Restored Integrity)

by Bro. Timothy Works

“Thus he showed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more.” **Amos 7:1-9**

Introduction

Our text speaks to us of God’s coming judgment, not of the world but of his people.

Verses 1-6 speak to us of previous judgments that were averted. How many times has our nation been spared the judgment of God, destruction, devastating famine, drought, war and pestilence due to the intervention and intercession of God’s people?

But verses 7-9 speak to us of a coming judgment that will not be averted or put off.

This time judgment will be of God’s people and will begin at the “House of God”,
(I Peter 4:17).

What is so terrible about this judgment? **Heb. 2:1-3, 10:27-31**
“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Vs. 31)

It will be on a one by one, personal basis. **Rom. 14:10-12, II Cor. 5:10**

If this judgment begins with us, what shall be the outcome for this nation when God gets finished with us? Complete destruction!

I What is the “Plumbline” by which GOD will judge us and hold us accountable? Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel:

The image presented to us by our text is that of the LORD standing upon a wall, which had been made with a plumbline with a plumbline in his hand.

What is a plumbline and what is the lesson this image is intended to teach?

A plumbline is a simple yet effective builders tool, a metal weight on a string. Used as a “guide” when laying down blocks to build a wall so as to keep the wall straight.

God will judge his people and hold them accountable to a just and right standard of righteousness.

“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained;” **Acts 17:31**

Jesus is the “Plumbline”, true to the word and righteousness of God, the standard to which we must measure up.

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:” **Matt. 28:20**

Made with a “Plumbline” God will hold us accountable to the standard by which the “Wall” was originally made. The doctrine, practice and faith once delivered to the saints.

All the things God had taught them that they were to do!

II What is the “Wall” that was built with a plumbline?

Jesus said, “I will build my church” **Matt. 16:18**

Paul said, “as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation...” **I Cor. 3:10-11**

“In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord.” **Eph. 2:19-22**

So we see that each of us as believers, saved and added to his church are as a wall laid down block by block, straight and true according to the pattern, *“for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.”* **Heb. 8:5**

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” **I Peter 2:5-10**

Each of us as a living stone place into that wall, set in place by God, *“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”*

I Cor. 12:18

“Fitly framed” **Eph. 2:19-22**

“Fitly joined” **Eph. 4:16-32**

III The plumbline laid to us as His people & His Church.

A.) As individual stones, “Fitly framed” Each stone was individually smoothed, shaped and sized at the quarry before being used in the building of the Temple.

a. Integrity Job 2:3 Doing that which is right, not for reward or praise, but because it is the right thing to do.

b. Separation II Cor. 6:17-18 We are to be a “holy” people unto the Lord, separated, sanctified and fit for the Master’s use. Not stained by the corruptions of the world.

c. Purity I John 3:2-3, James 1:27 “Unspotted from the world”

Tattoos, piercing, worldly dress and all manner of pagan and occult practices may be observed in our churches today.

Ungodly lifestyles:

I Cor. 6:8-11 “...and such were some of you”

However today our church rolls are filled with those who still ARE those things

They have not been washed.

They have not been sanctified.

There is no **justification** for that kind of life style!

Jesus is holding the “Plumbline” to **your** life, how does your personal integrity as a believer measure up?

B.) As stones placed together in the church, “Fitly joined”

Each stone was then “added” to the building, fitted and joined to those around it so that together they formed the House of God or Temple. **Acts 2:41-42**

- a. **Doctrine Jude: 3** “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered...” **II Tim. 4:2-4** “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.”
- b. **Ordinances / Traditions I Cor. 11:2** “...keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.” **Matt. 28:20** “Teaching them to **observe** all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” **Heb. 10:25** “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”
- c. **Fellowship I Cor. 1:10** “...that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” All our “Covenant” obligations, “one to another”. No jealousy, envy, strife, gossip, back biting etc.

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” I Tim. 3:15

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God.” I Peter 4:17

Jesus is holding the “Plumbline” to **your** Church, how does your integrity as a church of Jesus Christ, a genuine Baptist Church measure up?

If you are not saved and do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your righteousness does not measure up at all. **Rom. 3:10** “As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one” **Rom. 3:23-26**

Conclusion & Invitation

And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. Isa. 58:11-14

(Our Baptist Forefathers in the Faith)

Let us return unto the Lord our God with our whole heart and let us seek His face that He might receive us to Himself and bless us, forgiving us our sins and pouring out His Spirit upon us to **revive** us and restore our **integrity** as the people of God.

“The Polluted House”

(A Call To **Righteousness** / *Restored Purity*)

by Bro. Timothy Works

“We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the LORD'S house.” Jeremiah 51:51

“Strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the LORD'S house.” Our churches are full of **lost** church members. **Unbelievers** are church members.

INTRODUCTION:

*Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of **strange** children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: Psm. 144:11*

“**Strange Children**” (Lost people, Unbelievers, Children of the world)

“Mouths that speaketh vanity”

False professions of faith.

We need to be more discerning when people come making professions of faith and joining our churches.

“Right hand of falsehood”

Right hand of fellowship (covenant together, membership)

II Tim. 3:3 (trucebreakers – covenant breakers)

II Cor. 6:14 “Quit being unequally yoked together (Covenant) with unbelievers”

We need more emphasis on our Church Covenant! What it means to be a member of one of the Lord’s churches.

The results of lost Church members in our churches:

I. **We are confounded (Psm. 71:1** “*confused*” same word in the Hebrew).

I Cor. 14:33 God is not the author of confusion.

James 3:13-4:4 envy, strife, friendship of the world = Confusion

Acts 19:31 An example of a “confused assembly”

A.) Some cried one thing, and some another

I Cor. 1:10 “All speak the same thing”

There is an ever growing list of topics that we as Baptists are divided over:

Marriage & Divorce (pastors)

Dress

Head Covering

Music & Entertainment

Clapping / Amen

There was a time (1700’s – 1800’s) when this was not so.

(World-Protestants-Baptists) God’s word hasn’t changed, we have.

B.) Knew not why they were come together.

Churches today have become social clubs, places of entertainment.

Activities and groups which divide instead of unity / More confusion!

C.) Church is suppose to be an **assembly** of Saints, Come together in **unity** to WORSHIP and Serve the LORD.

I Cor. 11:17 "Come together not for the better but for the worse"

We are become confused and "unlawful assemblies". **"I praise you not!"**

We are reproached

Prov. 14:34 "Sin is a reproach to any people."

But that is especially true of those who profess faith in the LORD.

II Tim. 2:19 "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ, depart from iniquity."

Why would lost people want to unite with the

Lord's church?

In order to marry:

Lead our sons and daughters astray.

Deut. 7:2-4 "... make no covenant with them, ... neither shalt thou make marriages with them."

Beware of those coming for membership; that are dating our children and want to get married who are making professions of faith.

In order to network / for business:

Corrupt behavior and values

Phil. 3:19 "Who mind earthly things"

I Cor. 15:33 "corrupt good manners".

In order to deceive:

False doctrine and practice.

II Tim. 3:13 "Deceiving and being deceived"

Lost but believe themselves to be Christians

I Tim. 4:1 "...giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils"

Satan is sowing Tares among the wheat!

We are shamed

Eph. 5:11-12 "...it is a shame to even speak of those things (unfruitful works of darkness)"

"It is a shame for a man to have long hair"

"It is also a shame for a woman to cut her hair short"

"It is a shame for a man to cover his head in the assembly..."

It is a shame for a woman to be uncovered in the assembly"

This is part of the problem but not the worse part.

Tattoos, piercings and all manner of pagan and occult practices may be observed in our churches today. Ungodly lifestyles:

I Cor. 6:8-11 "...and such were some of you"

However today our church rolls are filled with those that still ARE those things

They have not been washed.

They have not been sanctified.

There is no **justification** for that kind of life style!

What is really sad is that people are not ashamed of their **sin!**

Rom. 3:18 "No fear of God before their eyes"

Jude: 11-13 "...feeding themselves without fear..."

Foaming out their own shame..."

Conclusion and Invitation:

What can we do?

John 2:14-16 Jesus drove them out of God's house.

1.) Preach the Word – Teach sound Doctrine

I Tim. 4:2-5 The harder & stronger the better!

"They will not endure sound doctrine."

a.) **John 10:26-27, I John 4:5-6**

"My sheep hear my voice...they follow me."

b.) **Mark 4:16-17** "offended at the word"

I John 2:9 "They went out from us..."

2.) Practice Discipline

I Cor. 5:7-13

II Thess. 3:6, 14

"purge out, not to company with, withdraw your selves, have no company with... that he may be **ashamed**."

James 4:6-10

"Purify your hearts"

and God's Sanctuary in preparation for the LORD's **return!**

"Humble yourselves... and he shall lift you up."

II Chron. 7:14

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves"

"I will forgive their sin"

"I will heal their land."

Baptists For Liberty

"And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts." Psalm 119:45

baptistsforliberty.weebly.com