

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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REVIVE US AGAIN

Friends as we look at the world around us and see all the wars, protests, riots, and marching, and see people disobeying every law of the land and trampling the word of God underfoot and we see so many of our parents living the life of a hypocrite and so many of our young people rebelling against all authority; it is enough to alarm you.

Yes friends, the great shades of sin are spreading across this nation of ours at an alarming rate and all of us are affected either indirectly or directly. YOU MIGHT WONDER WHAT CAN WE DO?

Well brethren, I suggest to you that we are going to have to begin with ourselves . . . that's right, we that profess to be Christians are going to have to revive our lives . . . we are going to have to stand up and speak out for the cause of Christ . . . we are going to have to speak out against evil of every kind at all times.

Friends, did you know that there are more churches in America today and less religion . . . more profession and less christianity, than any time in our history. According to the world books we have about 300 different churches in our country now and yet America is dying because of a lack of conviction.

But you say look around over the country side and in our cities at all the new church buildings going up . . . yes friends, the business of building churches is booming . . . but on the other hand our jails are full . . . prisons over-crowded, our divorce courts are overcrowded, why I even read recently where a judge in Missouri decided to set up a night court to handle divorce cases and friends he handled 23 divorces in two and one half hours of time. Our mental institutions are full . . . there are twenty to twenty-five thousand suicides a year . . . crime has increased 500% in the last 30 years . . . crime is costing the United States over \$51.1 billion dollars a year . . . that is 140 million a day and almost 6 billion an hour.

I would like to read you an article that I read in the Ark. Gazette recently: The large American city has become like an armed camp, shop keepers and ordinary citizens fight gun duels with hold up men and intruders in their homes . . . the streets are empty at night, cab drivers huddle behind bullet-proof shields, and some of the world's largest

corporations protect their property and employees as though they were under siege . . .

Again I quote from the Ark. Gaz. 30% of Americans keep a gun in their homes for protection against criminals and 43% of the United States families were victims of crime last year according to a survey made by Life Magiz.

Then if this is not bad enough the morals of our nation are falling so fast it will make you dizzy . . . Take sexual immorality for instance . . . from 1940 to 1962 there was a 254% increase in the illegitimate births reported for the 15 to 24 age group. It has been estimated that 85% of the marriages where both parties are still in high school . . . pregnancy is a factor. And while I am on that subject young people, it might be worthwhile to mention that 64% of the teenage marriages fail.

Another serious national problem is venereal disease. From 1956 until 1964 syphilis among teenagers rose by 230% in spite of miracle drugs. And friends Ark. is no exception. The state of Ark. ranks 7th in the nation in cases of syphilis, with the youngest victim being only 15 months of age. Next to the common cold, venereal disease is now the nation's most common communicable disease.

And the sin of adultery is spreading like a wild fire across our nation . . . Oh, brethren if Jeremiah were living today, I believe he would say (the land is full of adultery) as he said in Jeremiah 23:10.

Then there is the problem of drugs. According to a presidential study commission made in March of this year . . . 24 million Americans have tried marijuana and of this 24 million 8,340,000 were still smoking it.

When you pick up a paper you can see almost daily where the police have made what they call a pot raid in one city or another . . . quoting again from the Ark. Gaz.—In Fargo, North Dakota, 52 young people in a rented house were arrested including 18 juvenile girls on marijuana or alcohol charges.

In Little Rock the police conducted such a raid on a rented house and the last account I had there were 45 arrests and they thought it would go as high as 75.

We have had the raids in Hardy and they have had them in Mammoth Spring and these people that were involved are

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They Shall Look On Him Who They Pierced

"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side . . ." John 19:34. "And again another Scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced," John 19:37. The writer is speaking of Christ, while He was on the cross. This prophecy is recorded in Zech. 12:10, and the soldier, without knowledge of the fact no doubt, fulfilled the prophecy, Christ had come to the earth with a heart filled with love, to make it possible for men to be saved, but the Jews through hatred and contempt, had crucified Him! The irony of the matter was, that these Jews, should they ever be saved, must, "Look on Him whom they pierced," for He is "the way, the truth and the life", for all men!

This happened more than nineteen hundreds years ago and seems so far removed from us and our time, that we may think it does not pertain to us at all. However, let us take a closer look. There have been many boys and girls who looked with contempt on their parents, regarding them only as armed guards over their liberty and longed for the time when they would be old enough to throw off the "chains" of childhood and be "free." They wondered how their parents could be so old fashioned and so stupid, as to know nothing. Yes, millions of boys and girls have "pierced the sides" of their parents with ingratitude and rebellion!

Thousands of these boys and girls have lived to look with love, humility, gratitude and repentance, upon those "whom they pierced", while the parents were still living, and be able to replace the thorns with roses! Others learned the hard way, that Mother and Dad knew more than they realized, and that they loved and needed them more than they knew. Now they know that when ALL others on earth forsake them, that those whom they pierced, will stand by with a heart full of love, a smile and a helping hand!

Today many boys and girls (who are really men and women), would give ALL they possess, just to see again, a certain smile, to hear a certain voice and to feel again the caress of a loving hand of a kind parent whom they pierced! Sure, now they know how to love and appreciate parents and to understand the TRUE LOVE their parents tried to show them as

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EDITORS: Erwin Cowen
and James E. Henley.

Know The Truth

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (Jh. 8:32). This is an admonition to those individuals who would dispose themselves to following the Christ of God. But, how many of the followers of Christ genuinely "know the truth"?

The Bible reveals a need for the followers of God to have a God-knowledge, which of course, also means a Scripture-knowledge. (Hosea 4:6; I Pet. 3:15; Mtt. 22:29). Paul is apparently pleased with the knowledge of the Scripture which Timothy possessed (II Tim. 3:15). With the knowledge of the truth of God which you now possess, would Paul be pleased?

These days are days of great challenges to the Christian's faith. These challenges demand a knowledge of the Scripture to meet and prove those spirits which are genuine and false (I Jh. 4:1). If a Christian is vague in the Bible he should not oppose what he does not understand until he understands what he is opposing, because what he may be opposing might very well be the truth which God wants unopposed.

It has been the sad experience of many to condemn that which should be condoned and condone that which should be condemned. Brethren, such things ought not to be. A thorough knowledge of the Scripture will help alleviate much of this sadness.

I challenge you to "search the Scriptures" because "many false prophets are gone out into the world".

Mike L. Wilson

NEWS!

There will be a series of Gospel meetings at the New Welcome Hill Church of Christ August 28th through Sept. 3rd. Services will be at 8 p.m.

**God's Word Needs
To Be Believed:
Not Just Explained (?)**

"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction". II Pet. 3:16.

"But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt die", said God to man, Gen. 2:17. "Ye shall not die", said the Devil to man, Gen. 3:4.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall", II Pet. 2:10.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed, lest he fall", I Cor. 10:12.

"I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage; lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected", said Paul, I Cor. 9:27.

"Take heed, brethren, lest there shall be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God", Heb. 3:12.

"Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace", Gal. 5:4.

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted", Gal. 6:1.

"For after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb. The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire", II Pet. 2:20-22.

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins", James 5:19-20.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I

THEY SHALL LOOK ON (Con't.)

children... BUT... it is too late to either tell them, or show them, this new found gratitude! THINK, boys and girls, those of you whom God is blessing with living parents, believe it or not, they try to do what is best for you! Then why not, this very day, tell them that they are special in your heart and in your book, and SHOW them that this is true. If you do, some day you will be glad you did, if you do not, YOU WILL BE SORRY. ONLY WHEN YOU ARE A PARENT, CAN YOU KNOW AND APPRECIATE PARENTS. UNTIL THEN, BE A GOOD BOY, OR GIRL!

Many church members have turned their backs upon the church and those who love them in the Lord. Many times they have said unkind things about the Lord's church, his people, the very ones who have the greatest desire to be of help! They have forgotten the love of God and have gone "the way of Cain".

Then when these ungrateful members experience sorrow, or real trouble and need a true friend, to whom do they turn? Yes, that is right, to those "whom they pierced", and without exception, they find the desired help, love and understanding! The Christian will ALWAYS say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do". Many ridicule the church, the Bible and all things holy. They feel it is foolish to waste time on such matters, for life is short and the world has so much to offer. They, too, some day (it may not be in this life) must look on him whom they pierced and fulfill the prophecy of Phil 2:10-11, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and that every tongue should confess Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father".

The "same" Jews who crucified Jesus, "looked on Him whom they pierced", and asked, "what shall we do?" Acts 2:37. The very same answer which they received is good for us today, Acts 2:38.

Glynn V. Purdy

tell you before, as I have told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God", Gal. 5:19-21. "But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; this is the second death", Rev. 21:8. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD; NOT EXPLAIN (?) IT!

Glynn V. Purdy

REVIVE US AGAIN (Cont)

not all what we classify a hippie; some of these young people are from Christian families, so this is something we are confronted with now and its time for us to be concerned—It's time for us to examine our own lives and see whatkind of example we are setting before our children.

When we sell all these tragic things going on around us we wonder whose fault it is. After all we are supposed to be a religious nation. But friends I'm afraid that religion in America is a dismal failure . . . it is falling because in many essential features it bears little or no resemblance to the religion of Christ that we read about in Galations 1:8-9, where the Apostle Paul said, "But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which I have preached unto you. Let him be accursed.

As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other Gospel unto you that that he have received, let him be accursed."

In spite of the gravity of the warning not to preach a different gospel, the religion of Christ has been changed, altered, perverted and ignored . . . In its place everything that should be imagined is being taught and practiced . . . at the Southern Methodist University in Texas. A chaplain's picture appeared in the paper and he was dancing down the aisle with a girl dressed in hot pants. Of course, this brought about quite a lot of controversy, but the Chaplain answered his critics by saying, "We got to recognize that this is a new day in terms of student response." Are you listening brethren, he said worship needs to preserve a spirit of freedom so worshipers are free to say amen or right on, or call for prayer about some special concern. They need to feel free to tap their feet, clap their hands and yes, dance down the aisles and around the pews.

Brethren it breaks my heart to see how people will use religion and bring shame upon Christ and crucify Christ afresh . . . after all friends, Christ died for the church.

And while I am on the subject of dancing it might be well to mention that this is a sin that has been creeping into the church little by little and now a great majority of our young people in the church take part in this sin of lavishness and revellings.

But to deal with this we are going to have to teach and convict the parents that this is a sin . . . and then maybe they will correct this situation.

But getting back to those who use religion for every purpose, I would like to quote the Ark. Gaz. again; (In Pasadena, California a bar owner whose liquor entertainment licenses were revoked

because of the nude dancers he employed, has reopened his establishment as a church . . . the congregation still gets to watch the nude dancers and stag films and the beer is free. Authorities indicate that the operation is legal and that they are not sure what they will do about the hi-life social club church. The owner calls himself the highest ancient head priest of the church and refers to those visiting his establishment as my congregation . . . of course they are expected to give a contribution.)

Then last summer as I was working on my regular job in Hardy we had a job to do by the Catholic Church. While we were working I noticed several men working on the church yard and around the building. Well, when it came time for their break they all went into the basement and got a bottle of beer and brought it out and set on he steps to drink it. Now friends try as they may I can't understand how people can be so mislead. The bible teaches Christian people to abstain from all appearances of evil and when you look at all the evil associated with alcohol such as murder, divorce, homeless children, heartache and all the tears that have fell because of this sin and you see people continue to gussle this stuff like water. I would have to say in all truthfulness that they are turning their backs to the word of God. But these are the kind of things that are leading people by the thousands down the road to hell.

It's no wonder that church attendance is down. In 1958, 49% of the adult Americans went to church every week. By 1970 that number was down to 42% and by 1971 40%. The Catholic Church reported the largest drop from 71% in 1964 to 57% today.

Brethren the turth is the simple, pure and soul reviving religion of Jesus has almost disappeared in many places.

Where do you find such heroic sentiment as expressed by Paul in Galations 2:20, where he said: "I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

It seems that we are living in a cry baby society. Are we going to sit around and do nothing? Will we simply watch while our young people are destroyed, the nation collapse and the world goes to hell? Will Satan win without a battle?

Where are God's warriors in the twentieth century? We glory in the story of David and Goliath, but brethren there are plenty of Goliaths in the land today and each one of them ought to be smitten a death dealing blow in the name of the Lord of Hosts . . . we shouldn't be weak kneeded and say we can't do nothing, for that is one of the devil's favorite formulas. We as Christians ought to

realize what God can do through our lives. The Apostle Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthen me. Phil. 4:13. If God be with us who can be against us. Romans 8:31."

Yes brethren we should be able to conquer anything because we are armed with the gospel of Christ, which is God's power to save according to Romans 1:16.

The world today has much religion but little conversion, much pretention but little power, breat programs, but little progress against the ravages of sin. Paul pin-pointed the problem over 1,900 years ago, when he said in II Tim. 3:5, "Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." And then in Titus 1:16 he said, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."

1. Brethren keeping in mind all the things we have discussed in our lesson this far, I would like to suggest to you that the greatest need of our time is a religious revival:

It isn't enough to just stand back and curse the darkness; we must light a candle of hope that will turn men to Christ and I firmly believe that a religious revival is the only answer. Now I am not talking about the barn storming, steam rolling type of Evangelism that sends men into frenzied outbursts of emotionalism, but I am talking about a revival that captures the mind, the heart, and the will power of a person. A revival that stops at nothing short of a spiritual revolution in the life of each one of us. And we need a revival that sends one down on their knees before the God in Heaven to confess his sins, one that will drive indifference out of our lives. We need a revival that will make us say, "Here I am Lord, use me. I will be at every service. I will study my bible. I will tell others about Jesus and the love of God. I will visit the sick, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, pray for everyone, live a good Christian life before my fellow man and my family. Yes, make my life as you lived your life Jesus."

Oh, how long has it been since I have seen a wayward Christian all down on his knees and confess his sins, and for Christian brethren to say Amen to something said in a lesson.

Yes, we need a revival. A revival that will make us appreciate the word of God.

2. We need a revival that will drive the self-satisfaction out of our lives and uproot indifference and destroy forever the dull lack of interest with which so many face eternity.

Brethren the religion of Christ will excite you and thrill you, it gives a zest to life. Yet religious people everywhere are rapidly approaching a state of stagnation. But we might wonder why this is

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REVIVE US AGAIN (Cont)

happening. I believe the problem is in the fact that so many lives have not been touched by the Master . . . they claim to be Christians but they live no differently than the avowed atheist . . . their intellects are dull. They are content for others to do their thinking for them. The spirit of inquiry and investigation is dying, and with it their love and respect for the holy scriptures. We say oh, I don't have time to study or I don't need to study but, Jesus said in John 5:39 search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me. And then we have an example in Acts chapter 17 and verse 11 where the Christians in Thessalonica searched the scriptures daily to see wherever those things were so.

3. And friends the kind of revival that we need today is a revival that will bring dependence on God.

Many are the problems that confront us and we might as well admit that we are unable to solve them ourselves.

God has known from the beginning this truth according to Jer. 10:23. Then in Jerem. 10:15. We read that mans work is vanity and the work of errors. But brethren we can be thankful today for the fact that we can depend upon the work of God. Yes he is the Almighty ruler of the universe and he continues to show us his glory that we read about in Psalms 19:1 where it says: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. God is also infinite in power in Gen. 18:14. We read is anything too hard for the Lord. And with God all things are possible according to Matt. 19:26. But Jesus beheld them, and said unto the, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

A. Friends we can also depend on God's knowledge, in John 21:17 we see that the Lord knowest all things.

B. Then in Acts 1:24, we notice that the Lord knowest the hearts of all men.

C. Can any hide himself in secret places that I do not see him, said the Lord do I not fill the heaven and the earth. Jer. 23:24.

Oh, Brethren why can't we depend on God and trust in him—there is never a moment of the day when we are hid to God. Never a burden we bear on a trial we face that he is not near just as Luke said in Acts 17:27. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us.

4. We need a revival of our love for truth. Brethren such a revival would cause us to constantly evaluate our religious convictions and correct all errors as soon as they are discovered and if there is a one of us today that holds an opinion about a religious matter that the Bible

does not sustain, we ought to be ready to lay that opinion down, so that unity of believers might become a reality in our time—Paul said it so well in I Cor. 1:10. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye are perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Furthermore, we ought to be ready to have our ideas tested and examined by God's word. If they are right they will stand the test and ring true; if they are wrong we should count it a privilege to abandon them. Paul said, Prove all things; hold fast that which is good, I Thessalonians 5:21.

5. We need a revival that will change our attitude about the Gospel.

The truth is friends—many people do not know that the Gospel is God's power to save the lost we read in Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Some people have simply grown up thinking the Bible is some sort of fairy book . . . but the Gospel is the good news that tells us heaven was brought down to man that man might be brought up to heaven.

Also we should notice that there is attraction and beauty in the gospel of Christ and it is a magnet to draw men to God; as Christ said in John 12:32. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

The Gospel is the most powerful love story ever to fall on human ears and its' impact upon an honest heart is without description. Oh, how many men and women and boys and girls have had their heart pricked by the Gospel? HOW many tears of happiness have been shed? HOW MANY knees have bowed an all because God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. The Gospel is pure, just, and holy. God doesn't ask something unreasonable when He asks men to obey it. And friends, if you haven't obeyed the Gospel you can't give me one good reason why you should put it off. On the other hand I could give you reason after reason why you should come and give your life to Jesus. Yes, the world needs a religious revival because it has gone far from God, but if we failed to narrow this lesson down to us today, we would miss the point. If you have obeyed the gospel in the past, but you haven't lived a faithful dedicated Christian life, then you need to be revived. Maybe your sitting there right now thinking, "I just know wherever I need reviving or not." Well, only you can answer that. But here are a few things I would like for you to think about. You

might say these are symptoms of a declining spiritual life:

1. Are you growing bolder in sin and more easily tempted in sin?

2. Are you making a small matter of those sins that were once grievous and intolerable?

3. Are you settling down to a course of religion that gives you little labor?

4. Do you delight more in hearing and talking rather than in secret prayer and the word?

5. Do you observe grace at meals more as a matter of duty than as pure delight of your heart?

6. Do you regard too much the eye of man and not enough the eye of God?

7. Do you grow harsh and bitter toward others who differ with you rather than love and tenderness toward all?

8. Do you make light in preparing for the Lord's day and the Lord's table?

9. Has your ministry to the lost become a hardship and unbearable rather than a pleasure?

10. Does your desire for material gain and comforts of the world interfere with God's will for our lives?

In closing the lesson I would like to say "If you are living away from God, you need to be revived."

A. In dependence on GOD'S POWER, HIS PRESENCE, AND KNOWLEDGE.

B. You need to be revived in searching for the truth and testing convictions by the Bible.

C. In obtaining and maintaining a correct attitude toward others;

D. And in a deepening love and reverence for the Gospel.

By Billy Joe Goodwin

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