

When Revival Comes— 3/06/24

TEXT- Psalms 85:6 *Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?*

Psalms 80:19 *Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.*

Psalms 51:10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

Psalms 19:7 *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*

Isaiah 57:15 *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him 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.*

2 Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

James 4:8 *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

Habakkuk 3:2 *O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.*

Psalms 119:50 *This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.*

INTRO – Man is born with a need for God. Only He can fill the emptiness of the soul.

Job 14:1 *Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*

Psalms 51:5 *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

Isaiah 53:6 *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

What is revival?

- **Jonah's Preaching in Nineveh (Jonah 3:1–10):**
- **Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:20–40):**
- **Hezekiah's Reforms (2 Chronicles 29–31):**
- **Josiah's Reforms (2 Kings 22–23)**

I. Man Is Prone To Drift Away From God

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God is considered one of the most intense “fire and brimstone” sermons of all times for good reason: “For these the wrath of God is burning; the pit is prepared, the fire is ready, the furnace is hot, the flames do rage and glow;” “And there is no reason to be given why

those sitting in the presence of the preacher have not dropped into hell since they have been sitting here, but the unobliged forbearance of an incensed God;” “And it would be no wonder if some, in health and quiet and secure, should be there before tomorrow morning.”

Before the sermon was done there was a great moaning and crying through ye whole House, what Shall I do to be Sav'd—oh, I am going to Hell—oh, what shall I do for Christ., &c., &c., so yt ye minister was obliged to desist, ye shrieks and crys were piercing and amazing—after Some time of waiting, the congregation were still, so yt a prayer was made by Mr. W. and after that we descendd from the pulpitt and discoursed with the people—Some in one place and Some in another—and Amazing and Astonishing ye power of God was Seen—and Several Souls were hopefully wrought upon yt night, and oh ye cheerfulness and pleasantness of their countenances yt received comfort—oh yt God wd strengthen and confirm—we sung a hymn and pray'd and dismiss'd ye Assembly.”

II. There Is a Need To Draw Back To God

George Whitefield Comes to Middletown

Then one morning all on a Sudden, about 8 or 9 o'clock there came a messenger and said Mr. Whitefield preached at Hartford and Weathersfield yesterday and is to preach at Middletown this morning [October 23, 1740] at ten of the Clock. I was in my field at Work. I dropt my tool that I had in my hand and ran home and run through my house and bade my wife get ready quick to go and hear Mr. Whitefield preach at Middletown, and run to my pasture for my horse with all my might fearing that I should be too late to hear him. I brought my horse home and soon mounted and took my wife up and went forward as fast as I thought the horse could bear, and when my horse began to be out of breath, I would get down and put my wife on the Saddle and bid her ride as fast as she could and not Stop or Slack for me We improved every moment to get along as if we were fleeing for our lives, all the while fearing we should be too late to hear the Sermon, for we had twelve miles to ride double in little more than an hour.

And when we came within about half a mile of the road that comes down from Hartford to Middletown; on high land I saw before me a Cloud or fogg rising. I first thought it came from the [Connecticut River], but as I came nearer the Road, I heard a noise something like a low rumbling thunder and presently found it was the noise of horse's feet coming down the road and this Cloud was a Cloud of dust made by the Horses feet. It arose some Rods into the air over the tops of the hills and trees and when I came within about 20 rods of the Road, I could see men and horses Sliping along in the Cloud like shadows, and as I drew nearer it seemed like a steady stream of horses and their riders, scarcely a horse more than his length behind another, all of a

lather and foam with sweat, their breath rolling out of their nostrils in the cloud of dust every jump; every horse seemed to go with all his might to carry his rider to hear news from heaven for the saving of Souls. It made me tremble to see the Sight, how the world was in a Struggle, I found a vacance between two horses to Slip in my horse; We went down in the Stream; I heard no man speak a word all the way three miles but every one pressing forward in great haste and when we got to the old meeting house there was a great multitude; it was said to be 3 or 4000 of people assembled together, we got off from our horses and shook off the dust, and the ministers were then coming to the meeting house. I turned and looked towards the great river and saw the ferry boats running swift forward bringing over loads of people; the oars rowed nimble and quick, men horses and boats seemed to be struggling for life; the land and banks over the river looked black with people and horses all along the 12 miles. I saw no man at work in his field, but all seemed to be gone. When I saw Mr. Whitefield come upon the Scaffold he looked almost angelical, a young, slim slender youth before some thousands of people with a bold undaunted countenance, and my hearing how God was with him every where as he came along it solumnized my mind, and put me into a trembling fear before he began to preach; for he looked as if he was Cloathed with authority from the Great God, and a sweet solemn solemnity sat upon his brow. And my hearing him preach gave me a heart wound; by Gods blessing my old foundation was broken up, and I saw that my righteousness would not save me; After several more months, Cole was confident that he had been reconciled to a gracious God.

III. The Result Of Returning To God

An account of Rev. John Harvey's conversion in a small Methodist church in Pleasantville Indiana.

The Pleasantville Revival

The revival was in a small wood frame building holding 200 people with standing room. A wooden pulpit at the front surrounded with a mourner's bench. On either side of the pulpit three or four pews which ran lengthwise of the room. Men on one side and women on the other. The right side was known as the amen corner. This church was the head of the circuit or several assignments. People came on foot by wagon and horseback. The preacher knew nothing of modernism or higher criticism, he just preached the Word. This particular meeting was held in January 1885. I knew and felt I was a lost sinner on my way to hell. As I knelt there my sins rose up like a mountain. After much time he rose with salvation flooding his soul.

CONCL – Do we have enough earnestness for the Lord? We should call for special prayer during the week. Morning, noon, or night or all three.