

“THE REALITY OF REVIVAL”

PSALM 85:1-13

INTRO: REVIVAL is a term that is known to most of us who have been associated with a Bible-believing and preaching church for any period of time. For those who have studied church history, they know that at certain times God has sent great REVIVALS that turned large segments of whole nations around. In the United States, many are familiar with the revival called THE GREAT AWAKENING that took place under the preaching of William Tennet, Gilbert Tennet, Jonathan Edwards, and George Whitefield between 1740 and 1742. The preaching of THE GREAT AWAKENING emphasized the essential reality of biblical doctrine, and it is estimated that out of the total of 3 million people who lived in the American colonies at that time, over 250,000 people, including some preachers, were converted to Christ. In fact, in some communities, over 20% of the population were converted to Christ. In addition, many more were challenged to new dedication and service unto the Lord in personal revival. Because many people were converted to Christ and Christians got spiritually revived God wrought great spiritual things:

- New Churches were established all across the Colonies.
- Many men were called into the pastoral ministry.
- Many Bible Colleges and Seminaries were established.
- An interest in Biblical Missions and evangelism arose.
- The concept of Religious Liberty was promoted.
- Churches began to start Sunday Evening Services
- Theological heresy was brought into check.
- Christians began to return to the authority of the scriptures.
- Fundamental and evangelical ministries began to work together in evangelism and Bible Conference ministries.
- Baptist Churches began to grow and multiply.
- There was a growing emphasis placed on discipleship beyond evangelism.
- Local churches began to place a stronger emphasis upon being born again before a person could join the fellowship that replaced what was called “THE HALFWAY COVENANT” where unconverted children of born-again Christians could become members of churches to increase the rolls, which led to great compromise in local churches.

GOD USED THE REVIVAL OF THE GREAT AWAKENING TO EMPOWER BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY IN THE COLONIES THAT LAID THE FOUNDATION OF WHAT BECAME THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. A QUESTION THAT LIES BEFORE US IS “COULD SUCH A REVIVAL OCCUR TODAY?” There are many who doubt that, **BUT I BELIEVE THAT SUCH A REVIVAL COULD OCCUR TODAY IF CHRISTIANS WOULD BECOME SERIOUS AND GET RIGHT WITH GOD!**

TODAY I WANT US TO BEGIN TO EXAMINE “THE REALITY OF REVIVAL.”

THE BACKGROUND OF PSALM 85: The Jews had returned back into the land of Palestine from Babylon and though they were grateful for the restoration, they were disappointed that the conditions did not measure up to the glory of the pre-exilic conditions. (Cp. Ezra 3:12,13) So, the people were asking God to **REVIVE THEM AGAIN.** (Note verses, 6,7).

I. THE REALITY OF THE ESSENCE OF TRUE REVIVAL

A. What Revival is not. “Revival” is not when a person comes to Jesus Christ as personal Savior. That is SALVATION.

B. What Revival is. **Revival implies that there IS spiritual life, but there has also been a spiritual decline in a person and that such a person has recognized that decline and has turned back to God and his/her life has been refreshed/revived spiritually. IN ESSENCE, THE REALITY OF REVIVAL IS WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE GET RIGHT WITH GOD.**

THE ESSENTIALS OF PERSONAL REVIVAL

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

1. The Matter of Humility before God – **Rejecting Personal Pride**
 2. The Matter of Prayer with God – **Personal Communication with God**
 3. The Matter of Seeking God's Will – **For Personal Spiritual Condition**
 4. The Matter of Repenting from Sin – **Turning Away from Personal Sin**
- THEN GOD WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, WILL FORGIVE SIN, AND WILL GRANT HEALING. – A VERY REAL AND PERSONAL PROMISE!***

REVIVAL IS NOT THAT WHICH **WE** WORK UP, BUT WHAT **GOD** WORKS IN US WHEN WE GET RIGHT WITH HIM.

HOSEA 6:1,2

II. THE RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR TRUE REVIVAL

QUESTION: HOW DO WE KNOW THAT REVIVAL IS NEEDED?

OBSERVATION: The following applies to an individual Christian, a local church, and a nation.

AS I IDENTIFY THESE THINGS PLEASE APPLY PSALM 139:23,24

- A. An Increase in Certain things
 1. An Increase in the **TOLERATION OF SIN** – 1 John 2:1
 2. An Increase in the **NEGLECTING** of God's Word – Joshua 1:8
 3. An Increase in **UNHOLY LIVING** – 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7
 4. An Increase in **WORLDLINESS** – Romans 12:2
 5. An Increase in **IMPROPER ATTITUDES TOWARD OTHERS** – 1 John 4:7,8
 6. An Increase in **SPIRITUAL INDIFFERENCE** – Revelation 3:15,16
- B. A Decrease in Certain things
 1. A Decreased Interest in **PRAYER** (Public and Private) – Luke 18:1
 2. A Decreased Involvement in **THE LOCAL CHURCH** – Hebrews 10:25
 3. A Decreased **Yielding to the HOLY SPIRIT** – Galatians 5:16
 4. A Decreased Interest in **SPIRITUAL MINISTRY** – 1 Peter 4:10,11
 5. A Decreased Interest in **MISSIONS/EVANGELISM** – Mark 16:15
 6. A Decreased Involvement in **FINANCIAL GIVING** – 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

LESSON/APPLICATION

AS A NATION, AMERICA NEEDS REVIVAL. AS A LOCAL CHURCH WE NEED REVIVAL. BUT REVIVAL BEGINS IN THE HEART OF EACH INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER.

DOES GOD WANT NATIONAL, ECCLESIASTICAL AND PERSONAL REVIVAL?

INDEED, HE DOES! FOR HE WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE RIGHT WITH HIM! SO, ASK THE LORD TO EXAMINE YOUR LIFE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT SO AS TO REVEAL TO YOU IF AND WHERE YOU NEED REVIVAL AND THEN RESPOND AS THE LORD LEADS IN YOUR LIFE....DO NOT DELAY THIS ACTION!