

It is Time for a Revival

By Rev. Paul F. Elliott

President N. H. A.

Revival must have priority. This is God's normal New Testament standard for Christianity, not just a part or one phase of church work. Revival was her very heart and was uppermost in her thinking and planning. They thought, prayed and planned revival. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers had such a clear and high standard of Christianity, as a revival-Christianity, that they gave themselves to it wholly. Their paramount objective and work was to win souls. They were always at it. This was not a side line with them. Revival had priority. It continued even when the evangelists were in jail. It was the chief business of the Church. When I use the term "revival" I am not referring to a two-weeks special meeting, but I speak of the condition, the atmosphere, the spirit and the heart of the early Church which was to win souls to the Lord Jesus. They gave themselves wholly to the task of winning souls; they studied it, searched for it, lived for it and by it. Revival had priority.

The Church of God must be awakened. "While the bridegroom tarried they all slumbered and slept." Our position today is similar to that of Napoleon's officers who cried to their general, "We can hold this position no longer." To which Napoleon replied, "Then advance." The time has come when we can no longer stay on the defensive, take a passive attitude and drift along with ordinary procedure. We must arouse the Church to action and that right now! We must launch an all-out offensive—a "total war" on every front—a "hot war" against the forces of lukewarmness, lethargy, indifference and cold, deep professionalism. We must overcome that spirit of pretense, showmanship, professionalism and the form of godliness which has no power. So prevalent today is that spirit of morbid drowsiness and deadening indifference. General Ben Lear says, "The biggest job in the army is to knock the complacency out of the young officers and men, to make them realize that only by dint of their greatest effort, their utmost unselfishness, their infinite pains, and their capacity for self-sacrifice—will victory be attained. We must arouse in them the spirit of the offensive." This too, is the big job of the Church. Far too many church members are sleeping in the featherbed of ease and rocking in the chair of complacency. They must be aroused. The night is far spent. The zero hour looms before us. The darkness deepens.

Today's crisis calls for dynamic action. Only divine intervention can prevent chaos and disaster. The whole world is bathed in darkness. Our only hope is for God's people to prevail with Him for a spiritual awakening; for added to the ghastly terrors of atomic warfare and the moral collapse of America are the dangerous political and economic trends which portend the end of Christian civilization as we have known it. Titanic and evil forces are working to destroy all faith in God from off the face of the whole earth. The spirit of the anti-christ is working overtime to prepare the stage for the reign of the "World Dictator."

The church that remains inert, lifeless, passionless, tearless and prayerless will never be able to cope with satanic forces. The church must be aroused and united in an all-out effort for a spiritual revival. Revival must have priority. Extreme need calls for extreme measures. We must unite our forces in prayer and united effort in soul winning. Norman V. Williams said, "Get on your knees and ask God to consume you with the living martyrdom of the fires and burdens of revival. Ask God to make your own soul a holocaust of consuming passion and fire for the souls of the perishing. Your soul—a living martyrdom, a living manifestation of Calvary's longing love and bleeding burdened passion. Pray on and on, and keep praying until the soul and body cry for fasting from the bread of earth, that it may enjoy the sorrow and agony of burdened violent prayer."

OUR EXAMPLE IN ALL NIGHTS OF PRAYER

"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12.

If ever one of woman born might have lived without prayer, it was our spotless, perfect Lord, and yet none was ever so much in supplication as He! Such was His love to His Father, that He loved much to be in communion with Him; such His love for His people, that He desired to be much in intercession for them.

The fact of this eminent prayerfulness of Jesus is a lesson for us. He hath given us an example that we may follow in His steps.

The time He chose was admirable. It was the hour of silence, when the crowd would not disturb Him; the time of inaction, when all but Himself had ceased to labor; and the season when slumber made men forget their woes, and cease their applications to Him for relief.

The place was also well selected. He was alone where none would intrude, where none could observe; thus was He free from Pharisaic ostentation and interruption.

The continuance of His pleadings is remarkable. The long watches were not too long, the cold wind did not chill His devotions, the grim darkness did not darken His faith, or loneliness check His importunity. We cannot watch with Him one hour; but He watched for us whole nights.

The occasion for this prayer is notable. It was after His enemies had been enraged, prayer was His refuge and solace; it was before He sent forth the twelve apostles, prayer was the gate of His enterprise, the herald of His new work.

Should we not learn from Jesus to resort to special prayer when we are under peculiar trial or contemplate fresh endeavors for the Master's glory?—C. H. Spurgeon.

HASTE! O ZION

"Tis thine to save from peril or perdition
The souls for whom the Lord His life laid
down;
Beware lest slothful to fulfil thy mission
Thou lose one jewel that should bedeck His
crown.
Pour out thy soul for them in prayer vic-
torious:
And all thou spendest Jesus will repay."

Awake to Righteousness

Oliver G. Wilson

A bloody and tear-laden mist lies over the world today. The hour is pregnant with destiny. The strength of the enemies of truth and freedom is indeed great. The startling thing, and the thing that terrifies me most, however, is the weakness, short-sightedness and senility, of those who are the leaders in the crusade for right.

The conflict is on between two systems of thought—between God and anti-god—between Jesus Christ and Karl Marx. In not too distant a future all the inhabitants of this globe will be enrolled under one banner or the other. It will be Christ or anti-christ.

The anti-god forces stem from Russia and are world-wide in influence. Were all the enemies of Christ and freedom marching boldly under the "hammer and sickle" we would have little cause for alarm. But they infiltrate all nations, and seek to corrupt all governments. This makes our peril all the greater, for within our own circle of defense there may be a traitor who will open the gate to the "Trojan horse."

I repeat what I said in the beginning, I am not so much concerned with the strength of the followers of the anti-god system as I am with the weakness of the followers of God. Here lies our supreme peril. Paul aptly describes the spiritual condition of multitudes. "For though they keep up a form of religion, they will have nothing to do with it as a force" (II. Timothy 3:5, Moffat).

We need a new type of militant Christians. Men who believe God's Word without reservation, who live holy lives and who are aggressive in their opposition to all materialistic and atheistic teaching.

To correct the situation that confronts us there is need to:

1. Re-establish the personal living God in our society.
2. Realize that freedom does not spring from indifference, and is not maintained by indolence and self-indulgence.
3. Stop thinking of the Federal government as a dispenser of all human needs.
4. Assume our obligations as God-fearing citizens.
5. Speak out against greed, political chicanery, and immorality.
6. Go in for a genuine spiritual awakening in which the supernatural will startle the unbeliever, and awaken the impenitent.
7. Cease attempting a protective likeness to a godless generation and be more progressively separated from world practices.
8. Be done with double talk in doctrinal statements. Stand up! Speak out and expose error! Positively declare that Jesus Christ is the coming world ruler who will put down and abolish oppression.
9. Let pulpit and press thunder Sinai's law, pronouncing judgment upon evil doers without respect of person.

There is one hope, only one, for the world, and that is a return to God. Our globe was made desolate once by water. The Scriptures declare it will be destroyed by fire—and who knows but that the fire is already kindled.

Pray! Every man and woman, call upon God. Repent! Turn from empty professions. The hour is late. God alone can save us from suicidal disaster.—The Wesleyan Methodist.