

GUEST EDITORIAL

REVIVAL IN OUR DAY

Dr. O. G. Wilson, Editor, "Wesleyan Methodist"

There is much thought given and considerable planning made to bring a revival in this our day. We join with you in thanking God for all the efforts made, under whatever auspices, to bring in a general awakening.

Serious-minded people in all communions are distressed over the lawlessness and godlessness which plague our land. The cry of their hearts is for spiritual awakening comparable to the great awakening of the eighteenth century.

The Church of Jesus Christ cannot meet this present world challenge with half-hearted zeal, nor by mouthing meaningless expressions of faith.

"Without evangelism a church is in danger of becoming a chubby, clubby, complacent collection of nice folks—a sort of closed shop for the edification of the saints."

Faith must be re-born. Men must blaze with a divine enthusiasm fired by the presence of the living Lord, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Master outlines for us in very positive language the cost of revival: "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone. But if it die, it bringeth forth fruit" (John 12: 24).

Self-renunciation is a cardinal truth of the Christian Church. There must come a death to personal ease and an acceptance of whatever God places upon us, not with the drudgery of a galley-slave driven to his task, but with the zeal of a crusader marching to death, if necessary.

Revival is costly. Very often we pray for a revival "at any cost." To pray this prayer sincerely will mean nights of prayer, days of fasting, joining yourself to groups interceding for the Spirit's outpouring.

"At any cost" will mean determination and desperation and holding on until the answer comes.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth out of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them pray, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach" (Joel 2: 15-17).

This is the price of revival stated in the days of Joel, and sets forth clearly God's terms in every age.

"Yea, the Lord will answer, and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen" (Joel 2: 19).

The revival will come when men open the channel through which God's power and blessings flow.

A little selected poem sets forth in clear language a prayer that would be well for each heart to pray:

"Is there sin in the camp? Is there treason today?

Is there cause in our ranks for defeat and delay?

Something of selfishness, garments of gold,

Something of hindrance in young or in old?

Something why God doth His blessing withhold—

Is it, O Lord, in me?"

Jesse M. Bader, General Secretary, World Convention of Churches of Christ: "The churches of the United States have the message, the method, and the money to meet the great need. Have they the dedication, the passion and the spiritual power necessary to accomplish this huge task of evangelizing this nation?"

America's greatest need right now is Christ. While there are over one hundred million people in the United States who belong to some denomination, yet there are

The King's Highway

millions who are yet to be evangelized, brought into the fellowship of the Church. To do this, will require sacrifice, utter commitment to Christ, a prodding of ourselves from our complacent way of worshiping. We are lamplighters, we are bridgebuilders, we are under command to get the Gospel out. To this end let us each dedicate himself to greater devotion to Christ.

—O. G. W.

IS SOUL-HOT PREACHING A LOST ART?

By Evangelist Leonard Ravenhill, of Great Britain
in "Herald of His Coming"

Centuries have passed since the Swiss Reformer Oecolampadius forged the phrase,—“How much more would a few good and fervent men effect the ministry, than a multitude of lukewarm ones!” The passing of time has not taken the sting from the question.

Isaiah had his “Woe” of confession,—“Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips,” and Paul had his “Woe” of commission,—“Woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel!”

Neither of these ordained men had had a larger concept of the magnitude of their task than had Richard Baxter of Kidderminster, of England. Listen to him in answer to the taunts that he was idle.

“The worst I wish you is that you had my ease instead of your labor. I have reason to take myself for the least of all saints, and yet I fear not to tell the Accuser that I take the labor of most tradesmen in the town to be a pleasure to the body in comparison to mine, though I would not exchange it with the greatest prince.

“Their labor preserveth health, and mine consumeth it. They work in ease, and I in continual pain. They have hours and days of recreation, I have scarce time to eat and drink. Nobody molesteth them for their labor, but the more I do, the more hatred and trouble I draw upon me.”

There is something of New Testament soul culture about that attitude to preaching. This is the Baxter who ever sought to preach as a dying man to dying men. A generation of preachers of his soul caliber would rescue this generation of sinners from the greedy mouth of a yawning hell.

We may have an all time high in church attendance with a corresponding all time low in spirituality. Liberalism was cursed by many as the seducer of the people. T. V. is now the scapegoat getting the anathema of the preachers.

Snack-Bar Sermons

Having said that, and knowing that both indictments carry truth, may I ask a question? Have we preachers to confess with one of old, “The fault, dear Brutus, is within ourselves?” To sharpen the scalpel, and plunge it into the quivering flesh of the pulpитеers,—Has great preaching died? Is soul-hot preaching a lost art? Have we conceded to the impatient modern's snackbar sermons, spiced with humor to edge their jaded spiritual appetites? De we endeavour to bring the power of the world-to-come into every meeting?

With a powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit upon him, Paul went out to ransack Asia Minor, mauling its markets, stirring its synagogues, penetrating its palaces. Out he went, with the war cry of the gospel in his heart and on his lips. Lenin is credited with coining the phrase, “Facts are stubborn things.” How right he was.

Look at the achievements of this man Paul, and sicken

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