

Why Does Revival Tarry?

By Evangelist Leonard Ravenhill, of Great Britain

Harnack defined Christianity as "A very simple but very sublime thing, to live in time—for eternity, under the eye of God and by his help."

If we believers could become eternity-conscious; if we could live every moment of every day under the eye of God; if we did every act in the light of the Judgment Seat; if we sold every article in the light of the Judgment Seat; if we prayed every prayer in the light of the Judgment Seat; if we tithed all our possessions in the light of the Judgment Seat; if we preachers prepared every sermon with one eye on damned humanity and the other eye on the Judgment Seat; then, if all these things were done we would, I believe, have a Holy Ghost revival that would shake this earth and liberate millions of precious souls in no time at all.

The heady, high-minded, incontinent trucebreakers of this hour; the tottering of thrones; the smouldering fires of communism; and the bid for world dominion that Rome makes should fill us with alarm. It has been well said that there are only three classes of people in the world today: those who are afraid, those who do not know enough to be afraid; and those who know their Bibles.

Sodom had no Bibles. Sodom had no preachers. Sodom had no tracts. Sodom had no prayer meetings. Sodom had no churches, and Sodom perished. How will America and England be spared from the wrath of the Almighty think you? We have millions of Bibles, scores of thousands of churches, and endless preachers. And yet what sin!

LAX—LOOSE—LUSTFUL

Almost every Bible Conference majors these days on the church being as the Ephesians. Despite our sin and carnality, we are told that we are seated with him. Alas—what a lie! We are Ephesians all right, but as the Ephesian Church in the Revelation, having left our first love (Rev. 2:1-5).

We appease sin these days, but do not oppose it. This lax, loose, lustful, licentious age never will capitulate to the cold, carnal, critical, care-cowed church of today. Let us stop looking for scapegoats.

The whole blame for the present international degeneration and corruption lies at the door of the church! The church is no longer a thorn in the side of the world. The church triumphs in adversity, not popularity!

It is strange that we believe the church today is presenting to men the New Testament standard of Christianity.

PROSTITUTING THE ALTAR

I would as soon expect a frog to sit down and play Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" as expect to see some of the slick preachers of this hour preach with an anointing that would cause godly fear among the people. The evangelists today are very often prepared to be anything to anybody so long as they can get somebody to the altar for something.

Who wants help? Who wants more power? Who wants a closer walk with God? This sinning, repenting "beliefism" is dishonoring the blood and prostituting the altar. We must alter the altar. The altar is a place to die on. Let those who will not pay this price leave it alone!

REVIVAL TARRIES BECAUSE OF CARELESSNESS

Too little time is spent at the altar with those souls who come to do business with God. The evangelist shakes hands with his friends, and drinks the rich cream of men's

praises while sinners groan at the altar! America and England are strewn with spiritual derelicts, confused and confounded.

REVIVAL TARRIES BECAUSE OF FEAR

We are tight-lipped as evangelists about the spurious religions of the day. Acts 4:11-12 is still in the Scriptures although to the modern preacher it seems tinged with bigotry. "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal and sneered with derisive scorn at their impotence. Better to run out in the dark as Gideon did and cut down groves to false gods than fail to do the will of God. The Christless cults and Deity-dishonouring mushroom religions of this midnight hour tempt the Lord God.

Will no one sound the alarm? We are not Protestant anymore,—just non-Catholics! Of what and of whom do we protest?

Were we half as hot as we think we are, and a tenth as powerful as we say we are, our Christians today would be baptized in blood as well as in water and in fire.

Wesley saw the doors of the English churches closed against him, and Rowland Hill says of him, "He and his lay-lubbers go forth to poison the minds of men—his ragged legion of preaching tinkers, scavengers, draymen and chimney sweepers, etc."

Scurrilous enough! Wesley feared neither men nor devils. Whitefield was burlesqued on the English stage in the basest way. The New Testament Christians were stoned and suffered every ignominy.

How is it since sin and sinners have not changed that we preachers no longer raise the wrath of hell? They are we so icily regular, so splendidly null? We can have riots without revival but where in the light of the Bible and church history can we have revival without riots?

REVIVAL TARRIES BECAUSE WE LACK URGENCY IN PRAYER

A famed preacher entered a conference the other day with these words, "I have come with a great burden on my heart for prayer in this conference. Will those who will share this with me please raise their hands and let none of us be hypocrites."

There was a good response. Later in the week a half night of prayer was called. The big preacher went to bed. No hypocrite? Has integrity passed away? Are all superficial? The biggest single factor contributing to delayed Holy Ghost revival is the omission of soul travail in pulpit and pew.

BLOOD AND SWEAT IN PRAYER

We are substituting propaganda for propagation. How insane! The New Testament adds a valuable postscript on Elijah. James 5:17 says he prayed! Had it not been for that we would have seized the Old Testament story and, noting the omission of prayer, have said that Elijah prophesied!

We have not yet resisted unto blood in prayer. Nay we do not even get a sweat on our souls as Luther put it. We pray with a "take it or leave it" attitude. We pray chance prayers. We offer that which costs us nothing!

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