

The Revivalist

A M I N I S T R Y O F T H E R I V E R ' S E D G E C H U R C H

Galley: 'How do you keep up with the preaching?'
 Williams: 'I haven't preached for six weeks.'
 Galley: 'Well, who preached last night?'
 Williams: 'I can't remember them all, but seventeen people, I suppose; including an old granny of 78 and a little boy of 12.'
Conversation between H.J. Galley and a Mr. Williams during the Welsh Revival .

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T H E K I N G D O M I S ?

It seems to me that one of the hallmarks of real revival is the awareness that the kingdom of God is not of this world. Jesus is the one who makes such a statement and honestly it flew in the face of most every Jew who anticipated the Messiah, and it still troubles a great portion of the religious people of this day.

The Jews looked for a Messiah that would alter their present natural circumstances, a leader that would revolt against the oppressive Roman emperor and lead them to a new and glorious dawn. Few were looking for a Messiah who focused on things above, rather than the things of this earth, after all the Jews were living on the earth!

Things have changed very little and the insidious prosperity gospel that has spread throughout the modern Church over the past 30-40 years has proved this in dramatic fashion.

The heresy has in effect taken the eyes of the believers off of the real kingdom of God, focusing instead on the paltry things of this earth, and they have painted it all very well in the garb of scripture that the conscience of those who are corrupted by the teaching may be appeased, furthermore they are typically convinced that they possess the truth in fullness, while the poor "pie in the sky" crowd lingers on in stupidity.

Well beloved I can assure you that this Gospel which we preach is not all "pie in the sky" as they would so arrogantly pronounce it, but we do know that the kingdom of God is not of this world! It is not of the "kosmos," that is the Greek term translated as "world" and the word

speaks of the present social order, the philosophy of the age so to speak.

The scriptures paint a clear line between the life in the Spirit and the life of the world. Kosmos, as used in the New Testament is not speaking of the universe, or outer space as we know it, but the universal attitudes of men and women and their way of living, and Jesus says He is not of this system. He is not a new political figure with a fresh new agenda, or even an old agenda, and He makes no effort of changing the world externally, instead He points to the heart, where you find the things that really defile a man!

He says if His kingdom was of this world His servants would fight to prevent His being delivered to the Jews, for this is the way of the world. Here we have kingdoms, empires, nations that all have to resort to violence to preserve their peace.

The prosperity heretics for the most part criticize the early believers for their apparent persuasion in the imminent return of Christ and they would have us to believe that the efforts of the early Church were totally hampered by this obsession with the kingdom to come. Yet the majority of the vast Roman Empire heard of Jesus Christ within the 30 year period between the Apostle Paul's conversion to his death, and this was accomplished on foot, and a few ships that had the tendency to sink!

The glaring discrepancy between those early believers and our modern church-goers is frightening. It is no secret that modern believers for the most part live in identical fashion to their unbelieving neighbors. The differences in beliefs may cause the occasional argument, but there is very little difference in the way we live and the way the

IT'S ALL ABOUT

“world” is living.

The average person in this present world order wants to live at peace, be healthy, wealthy, have an abundance of toys, and have virtually nothing required of them, and with little variation the prosperity preachers have promoted the same life under the title “life more abundantly.”

The theology that is so opposed to real revival says the goal is to be the most successful person on the block, so as to provoke the unbelieving neighbor to pursue the same God you supposedly pursue, whereas the early believers sold their belongings and heaped up the results at the feet of the Apostles.

All this being said, Jesus did not attract a following by joining the right movement. By His own admission He did not have a place to lay His head (though prosperity preachers deny this unambiguous statement), which runs quite counter of being successful. He resorted to the miraculous (money from the mouth of a fish) to pay His taxes, in contrast to a huge bank account, and do we need to remind everyone that He was buried in a tomb donated by someone else, thus He apparently had no long term preparations made for His own departure!

The scriptures declare “who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” speaking of Christ of course, and I would that you understand that He endured the cross with an eternal reward in mind, not an earthly one. The joy would come, after the cross.

It was quite obvious to the people of Israel that this Jesus of Nazareth was not caught up in the same pursuits that the world labored after, indeed His own preaching came right back around to that point “Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” And again the Apostle Paul declares “ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Paul is aware that the abundant has nothing to do with the things of this earth, but the things of the Spirit.

Do we seriously want to know revival? Then we must abandon this living after the fashion of this world. The world has no time for the pursuit of anything it cannot taste, hear, see, smell or touch, but we are called to give up everything in order to acquire that which is beyond all the senses.

Show me a church where people are focused on self improvement and I will show you a church that isn't praying for revival, has no inclination or desire for revival and will mock you for insisting that we need revival!

Beloved we need to pray for these people, warn these people, love these people, but we do not need to be partakers of their sin! We cannot cozy up to this self-seeking theology that has built entire denominations on the sands of personal gain!

Show me a church that is hungry for revival and I will show you a group of people that are totally disgusted with what the world has to offer, a people disgusted with empty routine and dead religion. Find people who are hungry for revival and you will have found a group of souls that are fixated on the eternal and not the temporary.

Saints we are not called to fight for a human kingdom, another man's empire, but we are called to set our affections on things above, to seek first His kingdom. The battle is not for you to have a comfortable lifestyle while you are here on this earth, for goodness sakes you are supposed to be a stranger and a pilgrim in this land, with no continuing city! The battle is for souls, eternal souls!

It is a political time brethren in this nation and I encourage you to give ear to the Father, pray and seek His face as to how to bring light into the darkness of this land, but do not get caught up into believing that the battle is for an earthly candidate or political system. The kingdom for which we pray is not of this world, and the peace for which we pray is not of this world either.

Those of you who are praying for revival already, know and understand that this prayer will bring the weight of the kingdom of God to bear upon this earth, and this means light, truth, revelation and the exposing of all that is false and antichrist, so don't expect a wicked and reprobate government to be excited about it, or to look good when it happens!

Let us begin a new year with a renewed effort to shake off the mindset of this world, the fascination with that which is fading away, and let us set ourselves to prayer for His kingdom, without telling Him what we think His kingdom is or is not!

May fire be in your bones!

TONY DINGESS



Welsh Revival 1904

BENT AND BROKEN

There she was in the crowd. Behind all the men that were present. Standing with all the other women in the packed house at the back of the room. It may indeed turn out to be difficult to hear His voice after all because there are so many present. Being as bent over as she is, she knows she will never see His face, for she hasn't seen the face of her worship leader for eighteen years. But she has overheard many talking about this teacher, she simply could not let the crowd keep her away. Besides, she has never missed a Sabbath service at synagogue in her life and today wasn't going to be any different. She is used to doing things on her own, because she is virtually invisible to everyone. All she can see is their feet, but she is well aware that when people catch a glimpse of her they avert their eyes. Just a nobody in a world that loves somebodies.

Sadly it is much the same for women today. Suffering from the things that bend a woman over. It seems that statistics for domestic abuse rise daily, at least that's the way it appears in this county. Some of you never see a bruise on their body, but if they look you in the eye, and they rarely do, you can see the black and blue marks on their spirit. Living in a world that tells her that Jesus couldn't be calling to her for she simply isn't worth it.

Some women are under so much stress and strain with no relief in sight except The Lord come. The bending and crippling that comes with drug addictions or alcohol abuse to escape life, such as it is, seems to know no age barrier. Behaviors become modified and changed to accommodate the addiction.

Nail biting, compulsive shopping, gambling and smoking are just a few

habitual behaviors to pick from that have become the norm. Spirits of addiction and habitual behavior are sneaky and can linger for a very long time.

We also have to consider the cultural bending of a woman's body. The magazines and television telling us we aren't slim enough or pretty enough. They tell us our breasts need lifted and our tummies need tucked. They tell us our hair most certainly isn't the right color. And we of course we must always wear contacts that change our natural eye color. We are pressed to diet excessively and not only that, we have to purchase a certain type of clothing and dress a certain way too. The hateful spirit that tells us we are never good enough, smart enough or pretty

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. Luke 13:10-13

enough. It starts attacking us at an early age. I have heard girls as young as six utter the words 'I wish I were pretty.'

Statically speaking, ministry still remains a male profession. I recently read the sad and somewhat tragic story of a woman whose local ministerial association disbanded itself rather than admit her to the ranks. Mind you this was an automatic courtesy given to all her male predecessors. So rather than "insult" the congregation they just simply stopped meeting rather than have her Sheppard. Dismissed because of gender, because she wasn't good enough. How much can you take with-out it beating you down and crippling you?

But these women, just like the woman

in Luke are still standing. Backs may be bent and they may be broken but they are still upright. All the burdens of the low expectations and the words that dismiss have not put them out of the game yet.

The same Jesus that looked across the room and saw this "nobody". The same Jesus that noticed this invisible woman from the crowd some two thousand years ago, is the same Jesus that speaks to us today. Oh Daughter of Abraham your identity is much greater than the burdens that bend you down. You are a child of The Father. You are the apple of His eye. You are so precious in His sight.

So rise up Daughter of Abraham. Stand upright and claim your freedom. Stand with the one that is the rule breaker. Stand with the one that has



called you over and set you free by The Blood.

We may not hear the voice of the bent over woman in Luke, much like we never get to hear Anna the Prophet in the temple, but we have to understand that much of women's practices of faith in the texts are invisible.

This makes it so crucial for women today to stand up and speak. In a world that wants to bend us over we must follow Jesus in claiming that a woman's life is sacred. We are invited to be healed and to grow and flourish in His presence.

Oh how I long to hear women's voice of praise, born of freedom given by Jesus Christ, be heard around the world. What a beautiful revival song that would be.

Get Ready! Get Prepared! Our Lord Comes! *Marti Dolin*

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.THE-RIVERSEDGE-CHURCH.COM

THE RIVER'S EDGE CHURCH

REPENTANCE, REFORMATION, REVIVAL, & RESTORATION

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Awake...and God shall give you light!

The River's Edge Church was born out of the desire for the return of the presence of God to the Church in holiness and awesome majesty. We believe that these last days shall be more astonishing than the days of the Book of Acts, and we believe in praying until we experience it!

We are focused on repentance, reformation, revival & restoration. We are praying for the body of Christ on the earth to arise from the death of comfort, self indulgence and greed and to truly allow the Spirit of Judgment & Burning to purify us from all our corruption!

Pray that we obey, and walk through the doors that open unto us. Alleluia!

T H I R S T Y ?

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my spirit on your offspring, and my blessing upon your descendants" Isaiah 44:3

The River's Edge Church is simply a group of believers with a common purpose; to bring glory to the Father by exalting the Name of Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to revive us and others through us. We have no certain location and we simply meet in various homes for prayer, communion, and whatever else the Holy Spirit has in mind from one week to the next.

Please give us a call if you would like to gather with us, or if you would like us to gather with you!

Our Lord is coming!