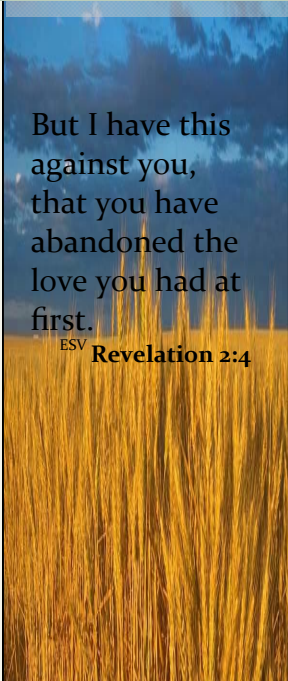


The Revivalist

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



But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

^{ESV} Revelation 2:4

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D I S T U R B E D !

Preachers often preach sermons about “Why revival tarries”. One reason is sermons and books about ‘why revival tarries’! They build up a barricade of doubt. They destroy confidence in the fitness of the church. People are discouraged, feeling that the church will never be good enough. But – our weaknesses do NOT repel the Holy Spirit – they attract Him. Why is HE here? Because we need Him! Reinhard Bonnke

Let me begin by saying that I have rarely ever heard brother Bonnke say anything, or write anything that didn’t ring true, and I am sure that I will continue to listen and read what the brother has to say. That being said, I cannot express my disturbance at having read this post by Bonnke on his Facebook page today. Not only do I wholeheartedly disagree with his statement regarding revival, I am disgusted that he would make such an obvious insult to the memory of the late Leonard Ravenhill, author of “Why Revival Tarries.”

Ravenhill’s book is widely considered one of the greatest pieces of revival literature penned in the last hundred years and it has influenced an entire generation of believers who were looking for something more than what they routinely encountered in the halls of institutional Christianity!

The statement simply disturbs me to the point that I think it needful to remind myself and those who read this newsletter of the words of Christ to the Laodicean congregation 2,000 years ago:

“So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.”

What does this quote from Jesus have to do with anything? Everything, indeed it reveals the attitude of Christ and His approach to problems within the Church.

Under Bonnke’s reasoning Jesus should never have mentioned the truth that the Laodiceans were lukewarm, because it would only serve to reinforce their self-doubt and the people’s confidence “in the fitness of the church.” Yet Jesus does not seem concerned about whether the church felt “good enough,” on the contrary He was quite focused on their need of the truth and in their case the truth was they needed serious repentance because of their arrogant apathy!

Those of us who would endeavor to address the question of why revival tarries (including Ravenhill) do so in the same vein that Jesus demonstrated in His address to the seven churches of Asia, that is He evaluated the works, the attitudes, the heart of the churches as a whole, as well as the individuals therein, and He came to conclusions, some were complimentary, others were scorching.

We see problems within the ranks of modern Christianity and we address those problems, even as Jesus did before us, and I think it necessary to say with vigor, truth does not build up a barricade of doubt, but beloved the truth is what will set us free!

Jesus did not express some blind confidence in the fitness of the seven churches of Asia, but He did express confidence in the truth that the ones who suffered from heresy, seductions and lukewarmness could be restored if they addressed the issues and traveled the route of repentance.

Beloved I will tell you what will destroy confi-

D I S T U R B E D !

dence in the fitness of the Church; Sin! That's right, and even the world has enough sense to see this. Greed, lust and empire building continues to undermine the confidence of believers by the millions and those who are hungry for the light of truth are sorely troubled by the diminished glow of modern Christianity.

The preaching that exposes error, fault and disobedience is not popular now, nor has it ever been, but it is rooted in the scriptures and Jesus set the stage quite clearly in His declaring of the truth to the sinner, the religious and yes, even to the churches.

It would almost be comical if it wasn't so dangerous, this idea that we should not ask "What's the problem with the churches?" but it is dangerous beyond measure. Should it be our focus or our obsession, absolutely not, we believe that we should keep our eyes and our hearts fixed on Jesus at all times, but we are called to "preach the word" and this call is not limited to some portion of the word, but to the whole counsel of God!

Our prayer for revival and our belief in the necessity of such stems from the obvious wounds in the body of Christ upon this earth and the tidal waves of disobedience to His commands. Jesus recognized the church at Ephesus for an abundance of good works, but still saddled them with a scathing ultimatum, "Remember from where you have fallen and do the deeds you did at the first!" The removal of the lampstand (the church) was at stake if the congregation did not repent and make a return to loving the way they did at the first.

We do not look for revival as a sovereign work of God that somehow overrides the freewill of people and produces a mass harvest of new converts, but we believe it is the very work and nature of the Holy Spirit to bring back the dead and scattered bones to the state of being a vibrant, powerful army sold out to the purpose of God the Father. Praying for revival is praying for the churches to return to an obedience that is fruitful, it is prayer for the promises to be recognized and walked in. It is not some state of mind that says, "I'm going to sit back and wait until God moves and get's this all accomplished," for real revival prayer always cries out "Teach my hands to war Lord, direct my steps in the harvest, guide my feet into battle, send me now!"

We recognize that the command has been given to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel," but this is not some haphazard command for the people of God to go running blindly into the battle with a few gospel tracts in their hands, nor is it a command to simply organize another evangelistic crusade, but

we are called to "walk in the Spirit" and this means we must hear and allow the Spirit to direct us as individuals.

Revival prayer is prayer for the people of God to wake up to the supernatural directive and desire of the Holy Spirit upon their lives. It is prayer for the word to come alive in the congregations that have settled for something totally without scriptural foundations, indeed it is prayer for every religious obstruction to come down, and it is never a prayer of acceptance of the status quo.

Beloved, individuals do not arrive at the place of doubt because they hear the truth, just the opposite, it is the truth that sets us free! The truth is the love of many will wax cold, and great apostasy will be evident in these last days, even as a great outpouring is unleashed, so there is no room for anyone to be overwhelmed with discouragement when they see the tremendous failures of the Church. We are called to lift the Samaritan out of the ditch, not to throw up our hands because the situation looks bad, and revival praying is prayer that you will not pass the wounded by this time around!

As for the fitness of the Church, or the fitness of any given believer, yes God will use us in our weakness, but this is not an excuse for disobedience and sinful living! Jesus is still issuing the call for repentance when we are in error, or half-hearted. The Church is pure and prepared for battle as it stands clean through the blood of Christ. He will use us because we are forgiven and our hearts are hungry!

Press in beloved, lift up your voice for life, even when those you may respect are saying you are off track. We cannot afford to accept lukewarmness, sin and heresy in our own lives, or the lives of entire congregations under any guise of positive thinking, or avoidance of sounding gloomy. I have said it before and I will continue to say it until the end, you cannot go wrong preaching what Jesus preached and when the churches had issues, sin, or heresies flying around He minced no words!

We pray for and preach revival because the promised outpouring is not over and this latter temple is destined, in accordance with His word, for greater glory than the first! We will continue praying for revival until there are no more indictments against the churches, and we will relent only when Jesus says "Well done, good and faithful servant."

TONY DINGESS

THE VALUE OF A WOMAN (PART II)

Last month I noted in the newsletter that a woman's place was in the home. Are you ready for part two?

A woman's place is in the world also. We are not of this world, we were not created for this world, but for now we are here.

"More than 10 million companies are more than 50% owned by women in the United States. The number of businesses in which a woman owns the majority of the company have seen more growth than other businesses during the last 20 years. Surprisingly, 6% of female owned businesses are in the area of construction" (www.your-small-business-guide.com/woman-owned-businesses.html). These statistics make me smile, they inspire me for the let me know that dreams are being dreamed and being made into reality.

Now, I am not saying that every woman should work, just like I am not saying that every woman should be a mother. But I find there were many reasons a woman has a career or works outside the home. Some are single moms and have no choice. Tell a woman with children and a husband that works a minimum wage job that she shouldn't work outside the home. The women I know work for the same reasons men do, to support themselves and their families.

When I hear people place the blame of the current state of the world on the fact that women choose careers in addition to motherhood, I get a little irritated. I cannot imagine a life without Florence Nightingale, or Elizabeth Barrett Browning. What about Ruth Handler co founder of Mattel and inventor of the Barbie Doll? Jackie Joyner-Kersey is a three times gold, 2 bronze and a silver medal recipient and is inspiration to women athletes all

over the world.

In my life the women I know work to live, we work to fulfill our destinies, we work to change the world.

When push comes to shove I really don't think that this is an issue between working and non working moms/women, but more of a societal issue regarding what is perceived as being a woman's place and a



His daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth Horon as well as Uzzan Sheerah. 1 Chronicles 7:24

trick of the enemy. Satan no doubt takes great pleasure in anything that he can do to bring division and discord between the sexes. Heaven will not be divided between working and non working moms.

Women can be successful mothers and achieve much in the workforce. I really don't think I am being double minded for I find proof of it in the scriptures.

Priscilla made tents, she appeared to have team work in her business life also (Acts 18:1-3), and Lydia was a seller of purple cloths, she had a head for business (Acts 16:14). Rebekah drew water (Genesis 24:16), as does the Samaritan woman (John 4:17), Rachel waters and feeds the sheep (Genesis 29:6-9). Ruth is gleaning in the field (Ruth 2:17) and Martha fixes a meal for her guests (Like 10:40). Paul held his female co-laborers in high regard (Romans 16:12).

Even when we take a closer look at the Proverbs 31 woman, she is a woman of

noble character (verse 10). Her husband has full confidence in her (verse 11). Her children call her blessed (verse 28). She has earnings and is profitable (verses 16 and 18 and 24). It really looks to be as if she can balance home and work and do it in such a way it brings Glory to The Lord.

From what I can find in scripture it seems to me that woman have been working outside the home for a very long time and I cannot find any scripture that says we should not.

Most of us that work, do so in jobs that involve us interacting with others, whether it is selling a good or providing a service it's an open field for ministry. I'm not saying to be an evangelist on the time clock, but your co workers and the people you encounter should know that you serve Jesus. They should be coming to you for prayer and we should be able to provide scripture for our office or company situations that arise. After a brief conversation a stranger should walk away knowing there's something different about you and it doesn't matter how Godless your workplace seems to be.

One of the greatest revivals in New York's history originated because a business man organized a weekly noon-day prayer meeting. Within six months over 10,000 businessmen were gathering for daily prayer. Jeremiah Lanphier was just a concerned layman, not a minister, whose obedience began a revival and transformed a nation. He saw the desperation upon the faces of the people, he knew the times were perilous and the community was in need of something more. He was willing to be a vessel.

Ladies, don't you see the desperate look upon the faces of the people? It's Time! Is there a current day Jeremiah among us?

Get Ready! Get Prepared! Our Lord is Coming!

Marti Dolin

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

THE RIVER'S EDGE CHURCH

REPENTANCE, REFORMATION, REVIVAL, & RESTORATION

Tony & Darlene, Phone: 304-239-0570

Marti & Dave, Phone: 304-752-0583

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!