

## *Revival or Death*



**We are living in the grossest of sin! And we're living so at the eleventh hour of history. How dare we?**

**I'm not speaking of the sins of murder, theft, or fornication. I'm speaking of neglecting God.**

**And not only do we neglect Him, but worse, we seem content to continue doing so!**

**The writer to the Hebrews asked, "*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation.*"**

**What greater sin could there be than to neglect God?**

**But you say, "I'm not neglecting God. I go to church regularly." Tell me, please. How much time do you give Him? How much money? How much thought? How much attention? How much love? How much worship? How much do you share His heart of concern for the lost for whom Christ died? How much for needy, hurting, or backslidden brothers and sisters in Christ?**

**Compare, please how much time, thought, attention, concern, money, and love do you give to things temporal? To your daily work? To your body? To your home? To the newspaper? To radio? TV? Pleasure? Entertainment?**

**Do you spend an hour or two a day communing with God, worshipping Him, reading and studying His Word, telling others of His salvation, showing practical love to folk for His sake. Three quarters of an hour? A half? Fifteen minutes? Ten? Five? What about today? Yesterday? The day before? Who are you most interested in pleasing? God or you?**

**To what do you give most thought? The things of time? Or the things of eternity? Is prayer time, private or corporate, the highlight of your week? What is? Is love for God a less prominent characteristic of your thought life than sexual lust? Is football more exciting than communion with God? Or basketball, baseball, gossip, or gabbing? Would you rather watch the tube than fellowship with the Lord?**

**Then You're Backslidden: You Need Revival**

**And so do I. And so does the whole church.**

**I'm sickened by my own failures. And I'm sickened by silly talk about the great revival that's underway. It may be a revival of flaunting our own things: our public worship, our successful service, our answers to prayer. But it's not a revival of love for God that leads to a self sacrificing obedience that really costs us something.**

**And it ends up in repeated spiritual failures among its leadership, failures that disgrace the name of Christ, and confirm our lost and dying friends and relatives in their awesome stampede over the abyss into an eternal hell. Yes, into a hell we refuse to preach because we refuse to *really* believe in its existence.**

**What a Contrast!**

**Just read of William Chalmers Burns. When he preached in the pulpit of the great Robert Murray McCheyne for several months, there was an ongoing revival. So there was almost wherever he**

preached in churches or the open air in his native Scotland. Yet he willingly buried himself. First in filling pulpits for others, then in China where he spent much of his time learning the various dialects and translating books and hymns, even rebuilding a medical doctor's house. There he deliberately chose to live alone among the Chinese with as few earthly possessions as possible to distract him from the things of God and his ministry. And there at length they buried him.

Yes, he sacrificed himself. He died first to himself and his fame, then to physical life altogether. He was buried in seeming oblivion. Yet in this oblivion the testimony of another missionary when asked if he knew William Burns was this: "Know him, sir? All China knows him. He is the holiest man alive."

This story brings tears to my eyes. It breaks my heart. How about you? Who Wants This Kind of Revival?

But this is the only kind of revival deserving the name. A revival of death to ourselves, life to Him. A revival that seeks nothing for ourselves, all for Him.

We Have to Have it

If we don't, my dear friend, do you know what I think is going to happen? The economic chaos around us is going to demand an antichrist savior. The true church is going to be discredited by the ungodliness amongst us. An all-encompassing, throttling world religious organization is going to have a fine excuse for its rejection of us. We're going to be persecuted. Tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands who attend our evangelical churches are going to renounce their faith, many because they never had any real, ultimate faith in Christ in the first place.

It's High Time

*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure" (II Peter: 1:10).* Yes, first, let's be sure we're trusting in Christ Jesus and His finished work absolutely and alone for our eternal salvation.

*"Exercise thyself unto godliness .... Therefore, we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God. ... Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee .... Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee" (From I Timothy 4:7 -16).*

I'm not calling on the church to engage in more human excitement. Nor am I calling on it to engage in more good works to get on God's good side. I'm calling on the church, beginning with myself, to fall on its corporate face before God. I'm calling on us to agree with God about our awful sin of neglecting Him and worshiping our own good pleasure before Him. I'm calling for us all to live in repentance. I'm calling for us to grieve over and pray for those who won't. Yes, and to lovingly, graciously, meekly, kindly but firmly reprove them. Not because we're better. What kind of repentance and humbling of ourselves before God would that be? But because we must have something more. Because we will not settle for so little. We will not continue to offend and grieve our Father God and His Savior Christ by neglecting Him any longer or by approving those who do.

I'm calling for us to spend more time communing with the Lord in love, and listening, and learning than we do unnecessarily with all men combined.

What Is Your Answer?

If you are truly the Lord's, your heart answers, "This is for me." Nothing else will do. Nothing less. That doesn't mean you're not frightened by the prospect of letting God have total charge of your life, reluctant for self-sacrifice, or worried by the scepter of failure.

That doesn't mean you won't wonder, "Whatever will I do in the times alone with God? Will I follow through? Will it work?"

We have helps for you for all these concerns and more. All you have to do is ask for our Transformed Living packet, and we'll send it to you.

But, my dear friend, please in the name of God, I plead with you, set your fears aside. Trust God to do you only good. Make no excuses. Get on your face before God as soon as possible. Right now if possible. Ask Him to show you yourself. Ask Him to break your hard heart. Ask Him to give you an insatiable desire after Himself.

Commit yourself to spend time alone seeking Him every day, if possible first thing in the morning. Read the Word and everything you can get your hands on that will encourage your heart to put Him first.

Don't try to work yourself into His favor.

Cast yourself in your need on Him. Let Him work while you watch ... and pray.

To refuse His call to continue on in your neglect of Him, this is the worst sin you can commit.

What is your answer?

What will you do with Jesus?

*Be sure to write for your sample packet of transformed living tracts and brochures. No charge. No obligation. They may help you get started in new and blessed directions in the Lord. If you value this message, request extra copies of Revival or Death for distribution.*

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