

## WHAT REVIVAL WILL DO

**Text: Ephesians 2:11-18**

**Key Word:** Revival

**Key Thought:** True Revival Will Break down Barriers That Are Created Between God's People

There is nothing more needful in our nation in this hour than a true revival. We've tried everything else but nothing is more important than the outpouring of God upon His people.

**Revival is simply the church allowing God to return in an atmosphere of openness and honesty to deal with our sinfulness.** I realize that some preachers would say that it's not good to talk about sin. They write plenty of books to help Christians love themselves and attempt help themselves out of their problems without attempting to lead them to Christ. Self-help groups can only go so far. Psychiatric treatment can only do so much. We need to give God the keys to our lives and allow Him to change us how He sees fit.

I have never read of a revival coming during the times of plenty. When people don't need things, they also feel they don't need God. It's during difficult days that people turn to God. Canada is ripe for a revival. The increasing trouble should be turning us toward God. This fall could be the greatest opportunity God has given us thus far to return to Him. Several things will happen when God is given freedom to be God.

There are many barriers that will have to come down during a true revival. It's when we are willing to come into line with God's will that these things will happen.

God wants His Church to "*draw nigh*" to Him AND to one another.

*"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ."*

*Ephesians 2:13*

Jesus didn't die to have His Church distant themselves from each other. Unity has always been a result of our Lord's sacrifice.

### What Barriers Need to be Broken Down?

- I. BARRIERS OF DEADLOCK**
- II. BARRIERS OF DENOMINATIONS**
- III. BARRIERS OF DOCTRINES**

## I. BARRIERS OF DEADLOCK

The word "**deadlock**" according to Webster means:

*"a stoppage resulting from the uncompromising positions of opposing forces."*

How many churches have missed God's revival because they will not change their position on *insignificant matters*. I've seen little things grow into barriers that should have been dealt with early in the problem. **Feelings can grow to become beliefs.** I feel this. Therefore, it must be true!

### A. Jealousy

Jealousy may come in when there is no revival. Revival will bring the dominating force of the Holy Spirit into a church in such a way that jealousy will have to be dealt with. I've seen some people leave a church because they refuse to deal with their feelings. They lie and say,

"I just don't want to make waves."

Lets face it. They don't want to be in the boat!

God can clear up ANY PROBLEM IN ANY CHURCH if we let Him. Our text shows that the way we will come near each other is by coming near to the blood of Jesus. God's blood has a way of cleansing us from sin. Jealousy is sinful 99% of the time. Jealousy finds its root in insecurity. Since we are made secure in Jesus there should be no place for jealousy to find a root.

### B. Anger

Anger is just one letter short of "**danger.**" Every time we give a person a piece of our mind we empty our head a little further.

"Anger is the wind that blows out the lamp of the mind."

*"Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit for anger rests in the lap of fools."*

*Ecclesiastes 7:9*

*"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger . . . "*

*Ephesians 4:31*

## I. BARRIERS OF DEADLOCK (Contd.)

### B. Anger (Contd.)

Jonah became angry at God and the Ninevites because they repented and avoided the judgement of God. I believe that it hurt some of his pride. He had built up a bitterness against this violent nation. God spoke to Jonah and said,

*"Have you any right to be angry?"*

*Jonah 4:4*

Jonah replied to God,

*"I'm angry enough to die."*

*Jonah 4:9*

You would think he would be happy that his evangelistic message was working in the hearts of the people. Jonah didn't want the people to receive forgiveness. He wanted God's wrath to be poured out upon them.

### C. Envy

God told us to let our lights shine not to try to extinguish the lights of others. **Envy depreciates the excellence of others.**

\*\*\* There is a Grecian story that speaks of the danger of envy. A statue had been reared of a fellow citizen in honour of his local victory of sports.

At night a man went out in order to destroy the monument. He continued to chip away at the pedestal night after night.

One night as he continued chipping away at the symbol of his opponents success, his envy had caused him not to see the danger he had placed himself in.

Without warning the statue moved from its pedestal and fell. The man who was filled with envy could not escape.

**He was crushed to death under the weight of the symbol of his opponent's success.** \*\*\*

## II. BARRIERS OF DENOMINATIONS

I find it very strange that denominations that were once improperly treated by their fellow-churches are now falling into the same trap. Why does there seem to be a feeling of scepticism among many denominational leaders? I believe that pride is at the root of this problem.

Thank God these walls are continuing to fall down. The history of every revival has shown that the barriers of denominations have been broken as the Holy Spirit gains complete dominion over His people.

"There are some people today that are more conscious of their **affiliation with their church** than they are with their **association with their Lord.**"

Dr. Paul B. Smith  
The People's Church

Some people are willing to back any effort that is organized by their denomination but refuse to cooperate with efforts of other churches. **Revival will cause us to be glad in becoming involved where the cause of Christ is advanced.**

When Jesus Christ is exalted, and the Holy Spirit takes His proper position of control, our affiliations will become secondary. Denominations are not necessarily wrong. It is our attitude working within them that creates a barrier for growth.

\*\*\* Each year our churches have become involved in a Joint Good Friday Service. As pastors, we have discussed what would God want to do. As the years have progressed so have the results - many for the good and some for the bad.

Churches joined in the past until we had about 11 involved. This year we had seven in number. Our last joint service included 600 people which was encouraging to see. We collected an offering of more than 2,400.00 which was given to the Salvation Army.

I have found that a mixture of denominational barriers and individual misbehaviour and faulty motivations that keep us from greater unity \*\*\*

Our city and area needs to see that we ALL WANT to work together. I'm being honest when I say it doesn't take much to get us off balance and hinder the unity that God wants. Is it God or "my church" or my whatever that is gaining the glory.

### III. BARRIERS OF DOCTRINES

*"abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations."*

*Ephesians 2:15*

**Doctrine IS VERY important to the church.** It is a statement about what we believe. It offers guidelines for our daily walk based upon what Scripture says. **The doctrine of the Christian Church is much different from the dogma of each denomination.**

Some denominations will not associate with another because of certain doctrines that they believe and practise. They become isolated from the main body of churches. I have seen how God has been working within evangelical churches to bring about unity. If we would concentrate on the things we agree about we would leave little ground for this barrier to be built upon. Fear and pride has often kept us from unity.

**Any doctrine that is not based upon the Word of God is man's doctrine and should not be followed.** Jesus abolished the laws of men along with their unbearable regulations and nailed them to the cross at Calvary. To follow them again would be a foolish attempt to abolish the work of the cross. We either accept one or the other.

Certain things are not as important as they now appear. We need to be careful not to allow secondary issues to overshadow the essentials. If we do so, we will create barriers to the advancement of God's kingdom. Methods of church government, forms of baptism, and interpretations of prophesy can become a barrier.

The importance is not what God will do in the future. We should be asking *"Am I in a right relationship with God right now?" "How is my day to day walk?"* Revival will cause these man-made barriers to crumble.

**Doctrine is a set of beliefs or principles held and taught by the Church.** Dogma is an inflexible principle or set of principles laid down by some authority. **When dogma forms itself into an axe to destroy others, who believe differently, it has outlived its purpose.** That dogma needs to change.

\*\*\* I was once asked at a table of pastors what I and they thought made their church unique. What truths did their church pride itself on and represent. I found it amazing that we accepted over 90% of what we thought made us unique. In other words, we weren't as unique as we thought. We were all grafted into the same truth. We have just learned to **major on minors.** \*\*\*

It's time for us to resolve our differences and begin to unite our efforts and our prayers in a desperate drive to get the gospel into the whole world. We need a spirit of unity and fellowship, cooperation, and acceptance to get back to our common goals of winning the lost for Jesus.

\*\*\* On Wednesday, August 11, 1993, Roger Clemens pitch his famous 2,000 strike out with the New York Yankees. In our city, many evangelical churches joined together to host an evening of Christian Music. The Snider family from Westport were invited to come and sing for God's glory.

Over 340 people attended the evening at Lamoureux Park. It was such a joy to see God's people come together and exalt the name of Jesus in such an open expression of unity.

As we were leaving, people turned their attention toward the sky because there was a meteor shower in affect.

Could it be that God led us to use that night so He could shower His pleasure upon us? Was it one of the signs in the heavens that the Scriptures teach us will happen prior to the return of Christ? Was it His way of telling us how heaven shines when God's people unite? I hope you can bear with this simple minded pastor and let him think it was God at work. \*\*\*

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Date: Nov 3/19

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song - Bind Us Together - F

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**B. Anger** - Ecclesiastes 7:9; Ephesians 4:31; Jonah 4:4, 9

**C. Envy**

#### II. BARRIERS OF DENOMINATIONS

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#### III. BARRIERS OF DOCTRINES