

COMMUNITY CONTENDER

I TIMOTHY 2:15

Edition 12

May, June 2017

REVIVAL-A NECESSITY

"Come, Let us Return to the Lord..." Hosea

No one will experience revival without knowing their desperate need of it. Full consideration must be given to the spiritual condition of the heart and personal relationship with the Lord. Hosea, God's prophet, preached to God's people when they had corrupted themselves with idolatry and accompanying immorality. The leadership had opened the door and the people had rushed into sin. King Uzziah had built a nation on military prowess, yet in his power he had neglected to seek the Lord. The temple doors had been closed by King Ahaz. The vessels of the house of God had been cut up. God's people were sacrificing to idols, even offering up their children. Hosea, God's prophet, preaches oncoming judgment and consequences unless God's people see their need for revival.

- 1. Revival is needed when unfaithfulness and idolatry are in the heart of God's people.** Hosea 1:2 *the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD...* (chapters 1-3) God's people would go after their other lovers rather than their one true love-Jehovah God. When anything or anyone assumes the rightful place of the Lord in the heart, idolatry is committed. Idolatry is nothing short of spiritual unfaithfulness to the Lord. It is spiritual adultery. The Believer is married to Christ, and anything that would come between this precious relationship must be seen as a fox that spoils the precious vine. *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.* (Jam 4:4)
- 2. Revival is needed when the truths of God's Word are neglected and disobeyed.** Hosea 4:1, 6, 10 *...the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.* Hosea 8:12 *I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.* It is attention to God's Word that will allow God's people to live in a state of revival. God's Word teaches the Believer how to live a life pleasing to the Lord, to live in spiritual victory, to abide in Christ, bring forth fruit, and glorify the Father in Heaven. To despise the Word of the Lord is to take lightly that which sanctifies the life, cleans the heart, guides the mind, and promotes spiritual growth. God's Word is the power source, the breaker box, for revival. When God's people neglect their Bibles, give them less attention than they ought, or simply put less weight in their heart upon God's Word, revival is needed.
- 3. Revival is needed when God's people set their heart upon their iniquity.** More than just having iniquity in the heart, this is a setting of the affections upon our sins. Hosea 4:7-8 *As they were increased, so they sinned against me...they set their heart on their iniquity.* Hosea records the dangers that come with prosperity and affluence. When things are physically well for the Believer he may be tempted to turn from the Lord. Spiritually there may be a temptation to consider ourselves prosperously plateaued. This can lead to carelessness, lack of discipline and diligence. When we are full, sin can easily spring from our deceitful hearts. The heart's affection is to be set upon the Lord rather than upon some sinful practice. Any root of sin must be pulled from the heart and the heart turned again to the Lord. The heart is capable of such passion, and this passion is to be reserved for the Lord. When passion for sin is flamed up in the heart of God's people revival is needed. Hosea 7:4 *They are...as an oven hearted*

It is the heart's desire of the Lord that His people would first know Him rather than doing things for Him!

by the baker...for they have made ready their heart like an oven...in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire... they are all hot as an oven... Desire for sin will lead to passion out of control. Affection should be set upon things above, but sadly many passions are set upon the sparks of sin.

4. **Revival is needed when God's people have moved any amount of distance from the Lord.** Hosea 4:16 *For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer...* Walking after our sinful flesh, God's people still have a bent for backsliding. Hosea 11:7 *And my people are bent to backsliding from me...* The Lord compares His people to a stubborn cow who digs in the feet and backs away from his drivers intended purpose. God's people have done this very thing in stubbornness. Backsliding is to be stubborn, assert in rebellion, to resist. When God's people are resisting the Lord in any area of their lives, revival is needed. Any attitude of rebellion cuts off the revival blessings of the Lord. Backsliding is directional, it causes the child of God to move away from the Lord; it is not a stationary term. Backsliding also carries the Christian farther than he intended. Satan will always provide means to help the backslider move further away from the Lord. Revival is a **returning** to the Lord, to where I used to stand with Him.

5. **Revival is needed when spiritual duties are done without heart devotion.** Hosea 6:6 *For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.* When sacrifice, church attendance, singing, and worship can continue without life, without the Spirit of God leading us, we desperately need revival. How sad that God's people can practice outward forms of religious exercise while their heart is not in it. Perhaps this is to appease their conscience, perhaps this is to keep their place in the eyes of others. Certainly this does not bring glory and satisfaction to the Lord. God takes no delight in sacrifice and burnt offering without the accompanying broken and contrite heart. He does not delight when His people tread His courts in a half-hearted manner. He would rather His people be burning hot or ice cold, but certainly not lukewarm. Isaiah 1:11-14



WHAT IF IT WAS YOUR SON?

J. Stockton

What if the Son were yours, that you so dearly loved,
And before the earth's foundations, He dwelt with you above?

What if it were your Son, who left Heavn's glories, fair,
To enter this cursed planet, full of sin and dark despair?

What if, when He "went about doing good,"
They said "that's the adulteress Mary's 'illegitimate brood.'"

What if He was your dear child, your one and only Son?
Why you'd expect your own creation, after Him to run!

What if it was your Son, who bowed down at your knees,
While drops of blood fell on the ground beneath
Gethsemane's trees?

What if you looked down, with loving parent's eyes,
and saw your Son betrayed and face a trial full of lies?
What if it was your Son, before the multitude, for them
to choose,

When Pilate asked "Jesus, or the murderer, Barrabas?
Whom will ye that I loose?"
"Release unto us Barrabas," so did the people cry aloud,

-would you have held the angel hosts behind the
Heavn'ly shroud?
And what if it was your Son, among the Roman guards,
as they smote and spat and tore His beard, His visage
badly marred?

And further, what if the dear Lord Jesus was your Son,
When they platted a crown of thorns and pressed it
into the brow of the Blessed, Holy One?

What if, He who struggled on up Calvary's rocky hill,
Was your own son, yes your very own!

- To hold back overflowing rage would take up all your will.
What if, (now I hesitate, but still, we must proceed,)

What if, to the Cross were hammered your Son's hands and feet?
What if, as He gasped for breath, beneath the darkened sun,

Your fastened eyes beheld Him and you thought, "that's my Son!"
What if, through great pain, He whispered just to you,

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"
What if He was your son? Would you?

JOHN PLOUGHMAN'S TALK; OR, PLAIN ADVICE FOR PLAIN PEOPLE... TO THE IDLE

IT IS of no more use to give advice to the idle than to pour water into a sieve; and as to improving them, one might as well try to fatten a greyhound. Yet, as The Old Book tells us to cast our bread upon the waters," we will cast a hard crust or two upon these stagnant ponds; for there will be this comfort about it: if lazy fellows grow no better, we shall be none the worse for having warned them, for when we sow good sense, the basket gets none the emptier. We have a stiff bit of soil to plow when we chide with sluggards, and the crop will be of the smallest. But if none but good land were farmed, plowmen would be out of work, so we'll put the plow into the furrow.

Idle men are common enough and grow without planting, but the quantity of wit among seven acres of them would never pay for raking: nothing is needed to prove this but their name and character; if they were not fools they would be idlers; and though Solomon says, "The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason," yet in the eyes of every one else, his folly is as plain as the sun in the sky. If I hit hard while speaking to them, it is because I know they can bear it; for if I had them down on the floor of the old barn, I might thresh many a day before I could get them out of the straw, and even the steam thresher could not do it. It would kill them first; for laziness is in some people's bones and will show itself in their idle flesh, do what you will with them.

This is the slothful man in the Proverbs, who "hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth." I say that men the like of this ought to be served like the drones which the bees drive out of the hives. Every man ought to have patience and pity for poverty; but for laziness, a long whip or a turn at the treadmill might be better. This would be a healthy purgative for all sluggards; but there is no chance of some of them getting their full dose of this medicine, for they were born with silver spoons in their mouths, and like spoons will scarce stir their own tea unless somebody lends them a hand. They are, as the old proverb says, as lazy as Ludham's dog, that leaned his head against the wall to bark"; and like lazy sheep, it is too much trouble for them to carry their own wool. If they could see themselves, it might by chance do them a world of good; but perhaps it would be too much trouble for them to open their eyes even if the glass were hung for them.

Everything in the world is of some use; but it would puzzle a doctor of divinity, or a philosopher, or the wisest owl in our steeple to tell the good of idleness: that seems to me to be an ill wind which blows nobody any good—a sort of mud which breeds no eels, a dirty ditch which would not feed a frog. Sift a sluggard grain by grain, and you'll find him all chaff. I have heard men say, better do nothing than do mischief but I am not even sure of that: that saying glitters well, but I don't believe it's gold. I grudge laziness even that pinch of praise; I say it is bad and bad altogether. For look ye, a man doing mischief is a sparrow picking the corn—but a lazy man is a sparrow sitting on a nest full of eggs, which will all turn to sparrows before long and do a world of hurt.

Don't tell me—I'm sure of it—that the rankest weeds on earth don't grow in the minds of those who are busy at wickedness but in foul concerns of idle men's imaginations, where the devil can hide away unseen like an old serpent as he is. I don't like our boys to be in mischief, but I would sooner see them up to their necks in the mud in their larks than sauntering about with nothing to do. If the evil of doing nothing seems to be less today, you will find it out to be greater tomorrow; the devil is putting coals on the fire, and so the fire does not blaze; but depend upon it, it will be a bigger fire in the end. Idle people, you had need be your own trumpeters, for no one else can find any good in you to praise.

I'd sooner see you through a telescope than anything else, for I suppose you would then be a long way off; but the biggest pair of spectacles in the parish could-not see anything in you worth talking about. Moles, and rats, and weasels, there is something to be said for, though there's a pretty sight of them nailed up on our old barn; but as for you, you'll be of use in the grave and help to make a fat churchyard, but no better song can I sing in your favor than this verse, as the parish clerk said, gall of my own composing":

A good-for-nothing lazy lout, Wicked within and ragged without. Who can bear to have him about? Turn him out!
Turn him out!

MEMORY CORNER:

Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Psalm 85:6

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. Psalm 138:7

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit,

to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Isaiah 57:15

They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon. Hosea 14:7

O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. Habakkuk 3:2

Charles Spurgeon

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR PARENTS IN A MEDIA-DRIVEN SOCIETY

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.
Romans 13:11-14

I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalm 101:3

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
Luke 14:28

There is no amount of diligence and dollars that is too great a cost for parents to pay to see their young people live a pure life that brings glory to God...

- I. *Give Attention*** to building a hedge of protection about the life of your young person—Know the capabilities of an electronic device before you allow it in your home.
- II. *Exercise Authority*** in your young people’s lives at all times—You are not their friend, rather their parent!
- III. *Never Abandon*** your young person to unsupervised free time, unaccountable friendships, and uncontrolled internet access.
- IV. *Be Aware*** to what your young people are exposed or may potentially be exposed.
- V. *Always Abstain*** from anything that will foster the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (the world) in the hearts of those who live in your home. Satan can use these to get a foothold.
- VI. *Nurture Accountability*** with your young people for their personal time, entertainment, music, friendships, and electronic devices.
- VII. *Live Authentic*** in front of the lives of your young person—teaching through example.
- VIII. *Do Avoid*** placing confidence in yourself and those young people in your home—never trust the power of the flesh!
- IX. *Stay Available*** to devote your time, energy, money, and wisdom into the life of your young person. Don’t allow them to navigate the teen years on their own—they will crash on the rocks!
- X. *Daily Arm*** yourself and your family with the spiritual weapons provided—Every Day: pray for your children privately and pray with them publicly.

Out From the Wilderness



August 6-12

The wilderness in the Bible is a picture of a barren wasteland where not much good happens spiritually. Many Believers today find themselves in the wilderness spiritually. It is time for God's people to leave behind the wilderness and enter the Promised Land exhibiting great acts of faith, commitment, obedience, and discipleship. The path out of the wilderness leads to spiritual victory, conquest with the Saviour, as well as intimate fellowship with Him. God's Word is the Believer's Spiritual compass which correctly centers his life upon the Saviour and will lead him in the perfect direction.

Start off this exciting week of our 2017 church camp at our Sunday Night, **Camp Service** with special music. All ages are invited to join for our annual summer camp. Bring your entire family and enjoy a week of excitement, adventure, and refreshment as we share in preaching, fellowship, and activity. Young people ages 6th grade through College and Career are able to participate in the week and stay in a cabin with our counselors.

You can expect to participate in planned activity for all ages, flag raising, daily chapel times, three generous and delicious meals a day, devotional time, and much more.

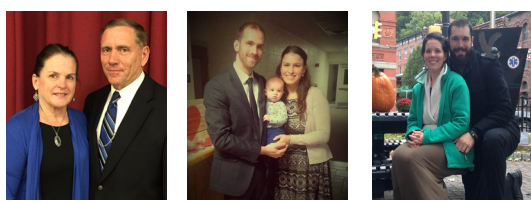
All campers will have the opportunity to join **one** of the **two** teams for the week. These teams will choose to be one of the 12 tribes of Israel. **Choose wisely, friends.**

Meals
The price of meals is included in the camp fee. We have a powerful cook staff this year. Meals will begin Monday with dinner and end with breakfast on Saturday. Those families staying overnight Sunday night into Monday are invited to attend Shady Maple at cost for their breakfast and are encouraged to bring their own food for Monday lunch.

Camp Staff
CBC will direct the ministry of the camp in providing pastors, counselors, and program staff.

Preaching
Hear challenging, prayed-over, Spirit-filled messages by our three pastors.

Opening Service Sunday Night, August 6, at 6:00 pm at French Creek.



Arriving Campers should arrive no later than 2:00 p.m. on Monday. Camp Officially begins Monday at 3:00 p.m.

Departure Camp will conclude at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Cost
Young Person for the entire week (without families present)
\$90.00
Families for the entire week
\$100 for both parents plus \$40 per child, OR \$250 (whichever is Less)

Ages
Families
Sunday-Saturday
12-25
(6th grade-college)
Monday-Saturday

Registration Deadline
Sunday, July 2

Day Pass with Meals (Must Sign Up In Advance If Planning To Eat)
\$12 per Adult per day.
\$5 per child under 12 per day.

Address
French Creek State Park
843 Park Road
Elverson, PA

Day Pass no Meals
\$3 per person

Sermon on The Mount

ACROSS

1 "___ and it shall be opened unto you."
 3 "A good tree cannot ___ forth evil fruit"
 5 "I will liken him unto a wise man, which ___ his house upon a rock."
 6 Lay not up treasures here
 10 "Beware of ___ prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing"
 11 "Neither cast ye your ___ before swine"
 12 "Because strait is the ___ and narrow is the way"
 15 "Ye shall know them by their ___"
 16 "And every one that ___ these sayings of mine, and doeth"
 18 "Consider the ___ of the field, how they grow."
 20 "For he taught them as one having ___ and not as the scribes."
 23 Jesus told them to "enter into thy ___" to pray and shut the door!
 25 "Give us this day, our ___ bread"
 27 "As we ___ our debtors"
 28 "Or if he ask a ___ will he give him a serpent?"
 29 "Judge not that ye be not ___"
 31 "And the winds blew, and ___ upon that house"
 32 "Ye cannot serve God and ___"
 34 "Sufficient unto the day is the ___ thereof."
 36 "Whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a ___?"
 37 "Seek, and ye shall ___"
 38 "Is not the life more than ___, and the body than raiment?"

DOWN

2 "Which of you by taking thought can add one ___ unto his stature?"
 3 "first cast out the ___ of thine own eye"
 4 "Do men gather ___ of thorns"
 7 "For where your treasure is, there will your ___ be also."
 8 "And ___ us not into temptation"
 9 "He seeth in secret"
 13 "Hypocrites love to pray out there in them"
 14 "thy Father which seeth in ___ himself shall reward thee openly."
 17 "Therefore I say unto you, Take no ___ for your life"
 19 "Not everyone that saith unto me, ___, shall enter into"
 21 "Our Father, which art in heaven, ___ be thy name."
 22 "No man can serve two ___"
 24 "enter into the ___ of heaven"
 26 "The ___ of the body is the eye."
 27 "and it fell not: for it was ___ upon a rock."
 30 "Behold the ___ of the air: for they sow not"
 33 "and it fell: and ___ was the fall of it."
 35 "But when ye pray, use not ___ repetitions"

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

PLACE STAMP HERE

1685 Upper Ridge Road
 Pennsburg, PA 18073
 (215) 541-1430
 www.communitybaptistpa.com

Mighty Men of Valor Men's Camp out
 June 22-24
 College & Career Mission's Trip to Freedom
 Baptist Church July 8-13