

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ezra 9:9.**
- B. Sometimes we have the opportunity, money, materials, and method--but something is still missing! What is needed to get the job done is **revival**!
- C. **Revival** is renewed attention to or interest in something. It is the restoration of force, vitality and effect.
- D. We don't need a new church with new rules, structure, or plan of attack. What we need is to have a revival of attitude in desiring to do things God's way.

## I. REVIVAL MEANS A RETURN TO NT PRINCIPLES.

- A. The KJV says of Ac. 2:41 that "**they gladly received the word...**".
- B. Look again at verses 46 and 47:
  - 1. They took their food in gladness of heart.
  - 2. They had the favor of all the people.
- C. Those first Xians were excited Xians. They were glad to have their sins forgiven.
- D. In Ac. 4:32 the Bible says the congregation was "**of one heart and soul.**" According to chapter 2, their heart was a glad one, a happy one.
- E. In Ac. 5:41, after being beaten and flogged the apostles, "**rejoiced in that they had been counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.**"
- F. When the queen's treasurer was baptized, he went on his way rejoicing (Ac. 8:39).
- G. The point is that one of the NT principles needed to be returned to in that of rejoicing in our Xianity (Phil. 4:4).  
**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!**
- H. Worship needs to be adoration and celebration. Adoration to God, and celebration of what He has done in X.
- I. We can be straight as a gun barrel doctrinally and just as empty spiritually! The church in Ephesus was just that way (see Rev. 2:1-7).

## II. REVIVAL MEANS RECOVERY FROM NEGLECT AND INDIFFERENCE.

- A. Neglect is sin (Jas. 4:17).  
**Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.**
- B. Revival means we are ready to take a stand for truth and a stand against sin. The problems at Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, and Laodicea all basically stem from being lukewarm caused by not standing firm in the truth. They were compromisers.
- C. Jesus wanted revival from those congregations, and one way to do it was to take a stand for the truth (Mt. 12:30; Rev. 3:14-16).  
**(Mt 12:30)** "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters."  
**(Rev 3:14-16)** "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: **15** 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. **16** 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.'"
- D. Many churches are 100 percent willing to let this happen because:
  - 1. 5 percent are working.
  - 2. And the other 95 percent are willing to let them!
- E. If you want renewed interest in your life in things pertaining to God, then take a firm stand to learn the truth, know the truth, and practice the truth.
- F. Get involved and you will be revived spiritually.

### III. REVIVAL MEANS **PUTTING THINGS IN PRIORITY** AND PERSPECTIVE.

- A. Putting things in priority is important to revival:
  - 1. Goals (Mt. 6:33).  
“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”
  - 2. Lifestyle (Lk. 9:23).  
And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”
  - 3. Direction (Phil. 3:13-14).  
Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
  - 4. Purpose (Mk. 16:15).  
And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”
- B. But just as important, is looking at things in perspective too:
  - 1. God is working for our good (Rom. 8:28).  
And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
  - 2. We can accomplish everything we need to accomplish (Rom. 8:31; Eph. 3:20,21).  
(Rom 8:31) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?  
(Eph 3:20-21) Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, [21] to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
  - 3. God will supply all our needs (Phil. 4:13).  
I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
  - 4. Even when we are weak, we can be strong (2Cor. 12:9).  
And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
- C. The Xian who is busy in revival, always views the glass of water half-full and not half-empty.

### IV. REVIVAL MEANS **LETTING GOD WORK.**

- A. Wisdom, might and nobility don't cut it with God.
- B. God works on men and women by the gospel (Heb. 4:12; 2Th. 2:14; see 1Cor. 1:22-29).  
(Heb 4:12) For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
(2Th 2:14) And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. God may not choose the same place, time or method that we have chosen to do His will. But remember, God knows what He is doing.
- D. Push, pull or get out of the way! Let God be God!

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Revival is always needed. Satan wants the church to be discouraged, depressed, and down cast.
- B. We can recover and do well. Revival comes from individual re-dedication. Decide today to:
  - 1. Rejoice in your salvation.
  - 2. To get out of neglect and indifference.
  - 3. To put things in priority and perspective.
  - 4. Let God work in your life.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring-Xians.