



Revival and Reformation Lesson 1 3Q 2013

Revival: Our Great Need

What is Revival?

Dictionary:

- 1:** an act or instance of reviving; the state of being revived: as
- a :** renewed attention to or interest in something
 - b :** a new presentation or publication of something old
 - c (1) :** a period of renewed religious interest (2) : an often highly emotional evangelistic meeting or series of meetings
- 2:** restoration of force, validity, or effect (as to a contract)

Do you like these definitions?

In FRIDAY's lesson there is a quotation from a periodical published in 1902 which states:

A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. **Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices.** Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.-- Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1902.

What do you here revival to mean in this article?

Which definition, that in the dictionary, or that from the article, do you identify with? Which definition is the one you believe the church actually needs?

Do you agree that revival and reformation must blend together?

What do you believe is necessary for revival and reformation, obviously the presence of the Holy Spirit, anything else?

Is there anything we can do to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to experience, promote, generate, stimulate, ignite revival and reformation?

I read the following in a book called Conflict and Courage:



Samuel visited the cities and villages throughout the land, seeking to turn the hearts of the people to the God of their fathers; and his efforts were not without good results. After suffering the oppression of their enemies for twenty years, the Israelites "mourned after the Lord." Samuel counseled them, "If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only." Here we see that practical piety, heart religion, was taught in the days of Samuel as taught by Christ when He was upon the earth. **Without the grace of Christ the outward forms of religion were valueless to ancient Israel. They are the same to modern Israel.** {CC 145.2}

There is need today of such a revival of true heart religion as was experienced by ancient Israel. Repentance is the first step that must be taken by all who would return to God. No one can do this work for another. We must individually humble our souls before God and put away our idols. When we have done all that we can do, the Lord will manifest to us His salvation. . . . {CC 145.3}

Thoughts?

What is repentance? Do we have a desire in our heart to truly be transformed, or is it an understanding in our heads, while our hearts desire the things of the world?

Did you notice the author said, "When we have done all we can do, the Lord will manifest to us His salvation..." What is "all we can do?" choose to open the hear to Christ, choose to reach out to Him, choose to apply to our lives what He reveals, choose to surrender ourselves to Him, choose to repent.

And what is another word for salvation? Healing – if we choose Christ, and choose do trust Him, then we experience actual transformation of character, healing of mind, renewal of heart, this is salvation, culminating in complete recreation at the second coming.

What prevents us from experience revival?

In a chapter entitled A Need for Revival, in a book called, *Counsels for the Church*, written more than 100 years ago, I read this:

I am instructed to say to our people: Let us follow Christ. Do not forget that He is to be our pattern in all things. **We may safely discard those ideas that are not found in His teaching.** I appeal to our ministers to be sure that their feet are placed on the platform of eternal truth. **[not some human theory that popped up in the last 500-1000 years]** **Beware how you follow impulse, calling it the Holy Spirit.** Some are in danger in this respect... {Counsels for the Church 326.1}

The enemy is seeking to divert the minds of our brethren and sisters from the work of preparing a people to stand in these last days. **His sophistries are designed to lead minds away from the perils and duties of the hour...** {CCh 326.2}

What obstructs true revival?



- Holding to beliefs that are not found in Jesus' teachings
- Claiming theories and ideas based on human constructs of government, justice, law rather than eternal truth
- Substituting impulse/emotions for the working of the Holy Spirit
- Allowing our minds to be diverted by sophistries away from duty to the Lord

Any examples of each of these?

- Holding to beliefs that are not found in Jesus' teachings
 - Penal/legal theologies is the most obvious
 - Rule keeping more important than people, so chastise the woman who divorces her physically abusive husband because he didn't commit physical adultery
- Not holding to eternal truth
 - Replacing God's law of love with imposed law
 - Making God out to be the source of inflicted death rather than the source of life
- Substituting impulse/emotions for the working of the Holy Spirit
 - Moses striking the stone
- Allowing our minds to be diverted by sophistries away from duty to the Lord
 - Pursing political solutions to achieve God's kingdom, get the right judge, senators, congressman, president elected to get the laws passed we believe are necessary to advance our religious agenda, rather than seeking to lead people to a knowledge of God and His kingdom of love

What are keys to revival?

- Humble heart
- Repentance
- Giving up known activities that incite fear and selfishness
- Studying God, His methods, design for life, which are found in His Word, nature and our experiences.
- Using Christ as a lens, a touchstone to test our theories and rejecting false ideas about God that incite fear
- Understanding God's law as the law of love, the design protocol of life
- Choosing to apply God's principles to our lives
- Trusting God with outcomes
- Growing in the truth – be open for our ideas to change with more evidence
- Giving of ourselves to help others

What suggestions do you have that we as a Ministry can do to contribute to revival and reformation?

Here is what we are doing:



- Praying daily for God's presence, Spirit, wisdom, agencies to empower and enable us to present the truth in love and to open doors of opportunity and bring willing people to join in sharing this message
- Studying God's Word searching for ever increasing insight into His design, plan and methods
- Giving of our time and resources to share these life changing truths with others
- Writing, speaking, designing materials to share
- Producing materials to share
 - DVD sets
 - Books
 - Bible Study Guides
 - Webcasts
 - Blogs
 - Video blogs
 - Fundamental Focus Pamphlets
- Support Heartwise Ministries and Heart of Health Live TV program
- Support the building of a bakery in Uruguay to help young people afford a Christian education
- Reaching out to connect with others to share this message about God
 - Jfest
 - Riverbend Faith and Family Night
 - AACC World Convention
- Seminars
 - I just got back from an all day seminar at Rolling Hills church just outside Los Angeles California. What a wonderful church and group of people, who heard about our ministry and this message about a year ago. A few people began listening online and then a few more and soon many members of the church were finding revival and reformation in this healing message about God. As an expression of their appreciation for our ministry and to help promote what we are doing they gave a donation of \$1000 to Come and Reason Ministries at the end of the Seminar last week.
 - I will be going to Germany in July and speaking in Aachen and Berlin, in August I will be speaking in Singapore and then in Australia at Perth, Avondale College, and Brisbane.
 - We are planning another seminar here in Chattanooga for the fall and will give more details as they unfold.
- By the end of this year our ministry will have produced and distributed, not just to random people, but only to people who have chosen to receive the materials:
 - Over 17,000 DVD sets
 - 20,000 Bible Study Guides
 - Over 11,000 Could It Be This Simple?
 - Over 10,000 Fundamental Focus
 - Plus all the free downloads
- We currently have people who follow us and are part of our online family from:
 - Australia



- South Africa
 - Germany
 - Sweden
 - Iceland
 - Japan
 - Philippines
 - Zimbabwe
 - Singapore
 - Saudi Arabia
 - United Kingdom
 - Canada
 - Most of the states in the US
 - Other countries I don't know about
- And this message is reaching beyond denominational boundaries. Our materials are being used by people of many Christian traditions:
 - SDA
 - Baptist
 - Methodist
 - Roman Catholic
 - Presbyterian
 - Non-denominational community churches

This has all been possible because this message frees people, their hearts burn within, and without solicitation people have sent donations to support in producing these materials to share with others.

When people see God as a being of love, and understand the law of love as the design protocol for life does it bring revival? Here are some emails we have received:

Thank you for coming to SLC. I've been watching your [class] and have listened to your seminars online which are incredibly helpful in understanding more and more about God's love and His amazing handiwork. Your presentation here was so full of practical information. I am blessed and sincerely grateful for your time, effort and your compassion toward others for understanding truth about God and His design for man... Like many others, I have struggled so long with some of the issues you discuss and by His grace, He has shown me that I, (we ALL), are fearfully and wonderfully made. With the knowledge you've shared, I'm better equipped to continue growing forever in Christ.

Kindly note that your approach to the gospel has revolutionized my relationship with God...I have experienced tremendous spiritual growth as I begin to relate with this awesome loving God whose character over the centuries has been deliberately distorted by the father of lies so as to cut us away from experiencing the love of God.



I would love for you to send me Dr. Jennings' **Healing the Mind** DVDs. I have given out about a hundred disks with his mp3's and so many have been so blessed by them.... including me. It took me years to get over mental and physical abuse from my childhood and that only happened because I have always loved to read almost everything and found help from everywhere... but if I had had the information in Dr. Jennings presentations.... oh... it would have been so much quicker and easier.

There was one lady that started attending our church some time ago; when she talked to anyone she mostly looked at her feet and spoke so shyly, hesitant, insecure, stuttering. One day she opened up to me about her childhood. She was... [severely abused as a child]. Immediately I told her she needed to listen to the Healing the Mind seminar. The very next [weekend] she came up to me at church, actually looking at me, and thanked me profusely over and over, and every time I saw her for weeks. I kept telling her to thank God and finally had to ask her not to thank me again. What an amazing change! She was a couple inches taller because the slump in her shoulders was gone, her marriage improved immensely, she would deal with the difficulties of it, she went back to work, etc., etc.

My husband and I have been listening to your [Bible Study] lessons this quarter from our home in Indiana. What you have been presenting about the imposed law construct and the natural law construct (and thus God's true character) has been revolutionary to our faith! We are still trying to work out all of our questions so that the natural law construct makes perfect sense in accordance with scripture...

And this was posted on an individual's facebook page:

Over the last few months, I've had a lot of time to sit and contemplate. Why am I here, slowly wasting away with ALS alone? (Without my wife) What did I do wrong? Was I a bad person? Was I too selfish? I felt there were probably a thousand reasons why, but what were they? She had said more than once that there were many roads taken and reasons for why we were where we were... I wanted to self reflect and really think and get down to the very depths of my soul and figure out what went wrong, what could I have done different.

Somewhere during my soul searching my sister, who was also going through a divorce, was watching a DVD of a presentation by a psychiatrist so I sat down to learn what I could and apply it to my situation. The psychiatrist's name was Dr. Tim Jennings and as I listened to him I was drawn in by his plain and to the point approach. He presented in a very articulate manner and was easy to understand. I listened to his words intently but it was soon over as I had come in on the tail end of it. I asked my sister about more information on him and she informed me



that he was coming to the Cleburne SDA church for a weekend seminar in February and he had a book called “Could it be this Simple.” Well, I attended the seminar, every minute of it. Then I listened to the audio version of “Could it be this Simple” three times, and then I bought a Kindle and read it. As soon as the Kindle version of his newest book “The God Shaped Brain” became available, I read that. Altogether, I gathered the information I needed to find the answers I was looking for deep in my soul. What I found is this, that by having a misguided view of God and not aligning myself with His universal laws of love and liberty, I have made many errors in my selfish nature throughout my life doing things, and saying things that seemed right to me, but weren’t. I take full responsibility for that... Two things are for sure, I am eternally grateful to have a creator that has no limits on what he will forgive in me, and I’m grateful to have such a great family especially my sister and my daughters that continuously support me. And let’s not leave out all the great friends I have.

But, I learned so much more, that my view on the character of God is skewed, and that my view about God’s law is just wrong. As new light was sinking into me my heart was uplifted. I encourage everyone to read these books. They have cleared so many issues up for me. No longer will I argue on this side or that side about God’s law. No longer will I look at another who has a different sin as mine with a critical eye. All of Jesus’ teachings make sense to me now as does the Old Testament. I wish I was good enough with words to explain everything but the books do it so much better than I could. It is worth the time invested to see the light that I now see. It has changed my life and my soul is rejoicing.

That is what the truth about God does. It restores trust and results in actual transformation here and now.

I share this message about God because it has brought me into a relationship with my Creator that makes me a better person. I have less fear and the immature elements of my character are slowly replaced with maturity. I could never go back to the old fear inducing religion that promised legal pardon but had no power to change the heart.

Does anyone want to share how changing their view of God has impacted them?

SABBATH

Read memory text: “ ‘ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (Rev 3:20 NKJV)

Thoughts?

What is the door to which Christ is knocking? What are the implication that He knocks? What does it mean He comes in and dines with us?



SUNDAY

The lesson talks about the church of Laodicea.

Let's read Rev 3:14-22:

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

²¹ To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Thoughts? What does this passage mean to you?

Do you hear threat? Do you hear love? Do you find it hopeful or discouraging?

From my paraphrase:

Rev 3:14 “To the messenger for my children – the church at Laodicea write:

This message is from Jesus, the Consistent, the Reliable, Faithful and True witness, who is the origin of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your choices. I know that you are neither on fire with love nor do you appear cold with selfishness. I wish you were either on fire for my kingdom, or clearly opposed to it! ¹⁶ But, because you are a lukewarm mix of cold hearts practicing selfish methods while appearing to be on fire for my kingdom, you misrepresent me and make me sick to my stomach. I am about to vomit you out. ¹⁷ You claim to be spiritually rich, full of heavenly treasure, thinking you have the truth and are in need of nothing. But you are so self-deceived you don't realize you are devoid of my character of love, decrepit, pathetic, bereft of true godliness, with minds so closed you can't even comprehend truth. You stand naked and exposed. ¹⁸ My prescription for you is to exchange your corrupt motives for the gold of godly love purified through fiery trials, so you can be rich in what heaven values. Exchange your filthy selfish characters for the perfect character of Christ, pure and white, so you can cover the shame of your imperfection. And apply the salve of the Holy Spirit to your minds so you can see and understand the reality of your condition and God's kingdom of love.



Rev 3:19 It is those I love that I diagnose and provide these therapeutic interventions. So take ownership of yourselves, turn away from destruction and apply the Remedy. 20 I am here now! I am standing at the door to your hearts, knocking with truth and love. If anyone hears my voice and opens their heart, I will come in and commune with them and they with me.

Rev 3:21 Everyone who prevails by completing the treatment and lives in harmony with my methods of love until the end, will sit enthroned with me just as I overcame and sit enthroned with my Father. 22 Those whose minds are open to truth will understand what the Spirit reveals to the churches.

Thoughts?

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “Commenting on Revelation...” thoughts?

The lesson rightly points out that “An insipid religious experience is one that is lifeless.”

What might be the reason for this?

- “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.” Ps 19:7
- “He who pursues **righteousness and love finds life**, prosperity and honor.” Pr 21:21

Can anyone make a connection between these two texts and how an insipid religion is lifeless and what brings life to our religious experience?

- What is the basis of life?
- What law is life built upon?
- What if one substitutes a different law construct?

Do you see the connection between the truth about God’s character of love, His design protocol of love, giving, beneficence, and life? Do you see how if one removes God’s character and design of love and substitutes an imposed law construct one ends up with a lifeless religion?

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “There is a gap...” thoughts?

How would you describe that gap? How have you seen the disparity present itself?

- Christian homes have the same rate of domestic violence as non-Christian homes
- History of Catholic and Protestant violence (northern Ireland most recently)
- Chastising, censuring, criticizing people who are going through marital difficulties and divorce



- Spreading rumors about others
- Other examples?

What contributes to the gap between what Laodicea does and says?

- Could it be holding to a misdiagnosis?
 - If one believes they have a certain condition, and they take the remedy for the condition which they believe they have – will they experience a certain confidence?
- But what if the diagnosis is wrong?
- Consider a child, whose parent tells them not to eat the berries on the bushes outside the house. The child is told if they do eat the berries they will be spanked. The child disobeys and eats the berries. Sometime later father sees the child with berry juice on their clothes and face and asks the child if they ate the berries.
 - What will the child think is the problem?
 - What will the child desire from the parent?
 - But what if the berries were poison? What is the real problem?
 - Is the father going to kill the child for their disobedience?
 - What is the father's attitude toward the child?
 - Might the father be upset, even angry? Why?
 - Does the distress of the father ever lead the father to want to kill the child?
 - What does the child need? A remedy!
 - If the father has the ability to remedy the child, will he?
 - Does any of this apply to our situation?
 - Does any of this explain the gap between what Laodicea claims and what it does?

This is the problem with Christianity today – it has accepted a false diagnosis that God is angry, mad, and we are in legal trouble with God and thus it teaches a false remedy, one of legal payment to appease an angry God, when what we need is actual remedy, transformation, healing of heart and mind.

Why don't those who are in this state realize it?

Read second paragraph, "One of Satan's..." thoughts?

And what did these Sabbath keepers do to God in human flesh?

Are we any better as a group than they were? But why aren't we? Don't we have advantages they didn't have?

Read bottom green section, "What ways..." thoughts?



WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “There is hope...” thoughts?

What would you say the divine remedy is?

Truth about God dispels the lies and wins us to trust – restored trust we open the heart and the Holy Spirit comes in. The Holy Spirit reproduces in us the perfect character of Christ, thus it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me. He writes the law of love on the heart again and we live acts of love and righteousness.

But it all starts with the truth about God!

Read second paragraph, “Jesus is going from door to door...” thoughts?

What does it mean to “buy” from Jesus gold tried in the fire?

With what do we “buy”? I thought it was a free gift to all who accept it? Why are we told here to buy?

- We buy by means of “barter” we exchange
 - our unrighteousness for His righteousness
 - our filthiness for His purity
 - our selfishness for His love
 - our terminal condition for His eternal life

The bottom green section talks about how Jesus knocks on the door to the heart and asks, “How resistant am I to opening the door to Him? If you are resistant, ask yourself, ‘Why?’ What is holding you back? What sin, what indulgence, don’t you want to let go of, or what is it that you find hard to let go of?”

Thoughts?

It certainly could be “sin” addiction, power, fear of the consequences of being honest about oneself that prevents the opening of the heart, but could it be something else?

Could it be lies about God that cause us to not trust Him? Could it be the idea that God must punish sin wherever it is found? Could it be distorted God concepts that incite fear keep the door if the heart closed to Him? Could there be people who, as we read in yesterday’s lesson, are behaviorally very religious and keep the rules, yet whose hearts are closed to God? Is it some sin that is holding them back? Fear, pride, and perhaps misunderstanding of God?



THURSDAY

Read second paragraph, “The book of Revelation mentions...” thoughts?

What is the significance of the throne of God being mentioned? What does a throne represent? When you think of God’s throne what comes to mind?

In Ezekiel chapter 10, what did Ezekiel see the throne sitting upon? A rotating wheel within a rotating wheel. What does this symbolize?

Does this have anything to do with the Lamb that was slain?

Do you see the connection between God’s character of love, and the law of love, the principle upon which life is built to operate? In other words, God’s government, God’s throne, is built upon the law of love!

Read last paragraph, “Christ uses His greatest...” thoughts?

How do we make these truths real, rather than just wishful thinking?

FRIDAY

Read second paragraph, “The counsel of...” thoughts?

Do you notice the white clothing is worked into the character, doesn’t cover over evil character? And it results in purity of heart and motive.

What does it mean to wash in the blood of Jesus?

What is the blood of Jesus representative of?

Read and discuss questions 1-4