"SONGS OF THE LORD" 1 Chronicles 15

Read 1 Cor. 10:1-15

Ps. 147:1; 149:1; 40:1-3

1 Cor. 14:15

INTRO:

A.-Hymn & A Pill:

1-ILLUS--The British Press Assn. reported a very strange incident. A British submarine lay disabled on the ocean floor. After 2 days, hope of raising her was abandoned. The crew on orders of the commanding officer began singing----"Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens--Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!"

The officer explained to the men that they did not have long to live. There was no hope of outside aid, he said, because the surface searchers did not know the ship's position.

Sedative pills were distributed to the men to quiet their nerves. One sailor was affected more quickly than the others & he swooned. He fell against a piece of equipment & set in motion the submarine's jammed surfacing mechanism.

The submarine went to the surface & made port safely.

2-WHICH was the most influential ????
--The christian hymn?
--OR--the pill?
--I don't know

3-But music has a powerful & influential place in the life of all men

4-Music is the language of the soul or emotions.
--To drag downward
--To lift upward

B.-Use Of 1 Cor. 10:6, 11:

1-Indicate the profitability TO US of all the Word

2-We are the CHURCH, not ISRAEL

3-Yet the principles related to music in the O.T are largely applicable & instructive to us

4-1 Chr. 25:7 speaks of those "brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD"

5-May we, today, join their number as "INSTRUCTED ONES"

C.-Outline:

1-PRINCIPLES For Music In Worship — 9 of them

2-PRACTICE Of Music In Worship — Next Message

I.-PRINCIPLES FOR MUSIC IN WORSHIP:

A.-Must Be Levites:

1-1 Chr. 15:16a--"And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers"

2-Levites were of the PRIESTLY family

3-In N. T. economy all believers are priests

4-1 Pet. 2:5--"Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."
5-Israel HAD a priesthood; the Church IS a priesthood
6-So, making music is limited to BELIEVERS — SAVED ONES
7-ILLUS--Christmas music program at Calvary Church when the Messiah was put on by unsaved musicians who went outside & smoked on the church steps at intermission----NOT RIGHT !
--Ps. 30:4--"Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness."
--SPURGEON--"David wouldn't fill his choir with reprobates, but with sanctified persons
8-Only men served, not women — Women ARE LIBERATED in Christ!
9-No such limitation now
10-Gal. 3:28--"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ."
11-So, our first principle is that musicians must be BELIEVERS

B.-Must Be Selected:
1-1 Chron. 15:17--"So the Levites appointed Heman...Asaph... Ethan..."
2-Not all are qualified to serve in music
3-Those who lead in musical worship must be chosen
4-Appointment means that they take the responsibility of this ministry — Be faithful in it "as unto the Lord"
5-PARALLEL in Westbrae--Music Committee handles
--Special music numbers
--Instrumentalists
--Song Leaders
6-So, our second principle is that musicians must be SELECTED

C.-Must Be With Training:
1-1 Chron. 15:22--"And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skillful."
2-Not just a jumbled group of singers
--But disciplined
--And trained
--And practiced
3-Under skilful hand of an appointed leader
4-Failure to practice--Lack of concern
--Lack of dedication
--Lack of realization of the need
--Lack of understanding of the contribution of music in the Church
5-Advantages of Practice & Training
--Learning & growing
--Developing & improving
--Sense of accomplishment
--Good job well done
Able to handle a variety of styles & kinds of music so as to lead the cong. in worship & also in appreciation.
6-So, our third principle is that musicians must be TRAINED and PRACTICING
Present at rehearsal to prepare for Sunday MINISTRY

D.-Must Be With Instrumental Accompaniment:

1-1 Chron. 15:16b, 19, 20, 24--Psalteries == Zither, Lyre
--Harps
--Cymbals
--Trumpets

2-Not "acappella" as Church of Christ insists

3-Eph. 5:19 (Amplified)--"Speak out one to another in psalms & hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices and instruments, making melody with all your heart unto the Lord." (Gk. agrees)

4-So, our fourth principle is that music is expected to be accompanied on instruments

E.-Must Be With Robes:

1-1 Chron. 15:27--"And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen"

2-Covering of clothes to avoid distraction of many colors

3-Blending for worshipful appearance

4-"MUST" have robes is not a legalism, but they are attractive and desirable

Certainly ADDS a dignity to the service!

F.-Must Be Mature:

1-1 Chron. 23:24--"These were the sons of Levi...by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house Of the LORD, from the age of 20 years and upward."

2-Previously began ministry at age 30 (in Torah)

3-Now dropped lower to 20 years because not CARRYING the Ark, but a tune

4-Point was maturity sufficient to realize their solemn privilege & responsibility

5-Now no such age limit for entrance into ministry, for one is a ministering priest from the moment of conversion

6-ILLUS--Children are often used to lead other children to a knowledge of the Savior

7-Nonetheless, we observe the principle that musicians should be mature enough to properly perform as a part of the group.

31a

G.-Must Lead In Worship:

1-1 Chron. 23:30--"And to stand every morning to thank & praise the LORD, and likewise at even; and to offer all burnt-sacrifices unto the LORD..."

2-LEADERS in worship--By anthems
--by leading the congregation in its singing

3-Expression--In thanks
--In praise

4-WILFRED CHUNG--"The choir's most important function is not the ANTHEM, but TO LEAD the congregation in singing praise to God"

5-Regularity of presence is expected
--"every morning"
--"and likewise at even" } Regular + faithful participation

6-Reminds of 1 Cor. 14:15--"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with

the understanding also."

7-There is value in TOGETHERNESS. Dr. J. B. Gambrell used to say that crooked sticks seem to straighten each other out when tied in a bundle. A singing congregation usually sounds fine, but I wouldn't want to hear them one at a time.

8-So, our seventh principle is that musicians LEAD in worship.

H.-Must Be An Example:

1-1 Chron. 23:30-32 (Read)

2-Orderly pattern prescribed

3-1 Cor. 14:40--"Let all things be done decently and in order"

4-Musicians are where they are "SEEN"

--Great privilege is theirs

--Large trust is theirs

--Need to be an EXAMPLE --of worship

--Let others learn by watching the good example of godly musicians

Illus - Berta Jo Stanley as an example — WHO SLEPT — Gordon Whitelock's breaking the flower pot + she was not an EXAMPLE, but a SPECTACLE!

5-ILLUS--Mrs. Freeman at Pastor's Retreat said she was rebuked by the Lord for not singing her "fullest" in a congregational number when she knew that she was to sing a SPECIAL number later. The thought came to her that while singing the congregational number the Lord might come----"If that should be," she said, "I'd want to be singing my very most heartily for Him."

I.-Designed To Produce JOY:

1-1 Chron. 15:6--"...by lifting up the voice with JOY"

"With Joy" in singers so that it PRODUCES JOY in the hearers

2-Emotional response is to be expected from music

3-Songs in Scripture:

--Exodus 15--Song of Moses---DELIVERANCE

--Judges 5---Song of Deborah---PRESERVATION

--Rev. 5-----Song of Redeemed---PRAISE

4-"The meaning of song goes deep. Who is there that in logical words, can express the effect music has on us? A kind of inarticulate, unfathomable speech which leads us to the edge of the infinite, & lets us for moments gaze into that." CARLYLE.

5-Let our music be an expression of JOY

CONCLUSION:

A.-Songs Of The Lord--Nine Principles:

1-Believers to sing

2-Selected to sing

3-Trained to sing

4-Accompanied to sing — Musical Instruments

5-Robed to sing

6-Mature to sing

7-Leading in worship

8-Example to whole church

9-Sing to produce JOY

10- Next Message — "MUSIC IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE"

Eph. 5:1-21

B.-Summary For Thought:

1-Music ought to be edifying to the saints

--Lift their concepts

--Lighten their burdens

--Brighten their pathway

--DON HUSTAD--"There is basically ONE service. There should be constant contact and close rapport between the musicians and the minister. One Pastor told me that he did not care what kind of music his church had, as long as it brought people in thru the doors. But music is not just a professional gimmick. (Such a musician as) Bev Shea does not just 'bring people to the services', he makes a direct spiritual contribution

--In a recent survey made by a christian magazine 80% of those interviewed claimed to be christians, but only 5 % reported that they PREFERRED church music to any other.

If this is true, it is the beginning of slow spiritual suicide, for we are stumbling-blocks to others by identifying ourselves with Christ on Sundays, and with the world the other 6 days of the week.

Let us return to a delight and an appreciation of the "SONGS OF THE LORD.

2-Music is a SERVANT to the Word of God

--WRONG WAY--U.P. Church in Lincoln, Nebr., where the musicians got so much out of line that one sunday the Pastor rearranged the service and said, "Now that the WORSHIP SERVICE is concluded, the choir will PERFORM"

--RIGHT WAY--Organist at Grace Bible Church of Redwood City said to us about their new $35,000 Seville Organ, "The music of this instrument and of our musicians is conceived of as a "HANDMAIDEN" of the Word of God"

--May we thus consider music as we join our voices and instruments in.....

....."SONGS OF THE LORD"

THE POWER OF SONG

When the Spirit of God moved the Church to reformation four hundred years ago, that Reformation came with singing. Coleridge may have been over-zealous in claiming that "Luther did as much for the Reformation by his hymns as by his translation of the Bible." That he was not entirely off the mark, however, is borne out by the witness of a cardinal of that time, "By his songs he [Luther] has conquered us."

— Selected

11/27/66--Westbrae

2/4/73

"Come, Thou Almighty King" 21

"Since I Have Been Redeemed" 279

"O For A Thousand Tongues" 222

"YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE"

1 Chron. 16:1-36
Intro--Ps. 150:1-6

INTRO: **Worship In Review:**

A.-Seen In Earlier Messages:
1-True Worship vs. False Worship
2-Worship can be taught
3-Attitudes Toward Worship:
--Promptness; an appointment with God
--Silence; in the presence of deity
--Adoration & Praise; before omnipotence
--Concentration; undivided attention
--"In the Spirit"; for the walk of power
4-Reverence--An ATTITUDE of heart
--An APPEARANCE of body
--An ACTION of life
5-ILLUS - Moses at the BURNING BUSH — Ex. 3:5

"And God said: Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

Opposite View Today:
- Irreverence in the Lord's House
- Disrespect for the Lord's Day
- Ignoring of the claims of Christ on our lives

B.-Worship Is Reciprocal:
1-Today's items of examination in "YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE" are not "mere adjuncts" or "window dressing"
2-They are part & parcel of your true worship experience
3-Worship is ESSENTIALLY RECIPROCAL
--Not a "spectator sport"
--Not a show to be watched.....from afar off
--But a combination of****ADORATION and
****ENCOUNTER
--Expected to come on down from the grandstands
4-Must question ourselves after a service of worship:
"DID I MEET JESUS CHRIST TODAY?"
5-If not, why not!
6-Whose fault?
7-Maybe because you were NOT PARTICIPATING

GOD is in QUEST for believers who will really worship. John 4:23

WORSHIP is our HIGHEST OCCUPATION!

I.- INVOLVEMENT IN AND EXPRESSION OF WORSHIP:

A.-Involvement By Singing:
1-Pattern of both O.T. & N. T. worship emphasises this
2-Scriptures:
--Ps. 150:1-6 (used above as Introductory Reading)
--Col. 3:16--"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord
--Eph. 5:19--"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"
3-Israel SANG unto the Lord
--Song of Moses
--Song of Deborah
--Song of Barak
--Song of Hannah
--Songs of Levites
--Songs of planting
--Songs of harvest
--Songs of battle
--Songs of joy
--Ps. 40:3--"And he hath put a new song in my mouth,

Def. "A personal response to a Divine Revelation."

W/o a response, it cannot be worship!

even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

4-Questions and Answers from Don Hustad of Moody Bible Institute and Organist ~~at the Chicago Crusade of Billy Graham~~:

(1) Q.--Have men been won to Christ thru music?
A.--Many have been converted to Jesus Christ just through a phrase of a song--perhaps something they learned in ~~the~~ early years. ~~During the London Crusade in 1954 folks would leave Harringay Arena and sing hymns in the subway on their way home. We heard of people being converted on the trains just thru listening to those songs.~~ The whole Welsh revival of 1904, they tell us, was borne on the wing of song.

(2) Q.--Why don't we hear stronger singing in some of our churches
A.--Singing is a spiritual matter. If we are the kind of Christians God wants us to be, our singing will show it.

(3) Q.--And is congregational singing so important?
A.--I think it the most important musical part of the worship service. Something happens to the worshiper when he sings He becomes his own priest, going directly to God as he does in prayer. This is more important than going thru a choir or soloist. Furthermore, the hymns teach the people about the Savior's love for them.

5-1 Cor. 14:15--"What is it then? I will pray with the Spirit, & I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the Spirit, and I will singwith the understanding also."
--not just noise
--not nonsense ditties - Spiritual 'manese-dotes"
--but singing words with deep spiritual meaning
--Something of a realization of this is newly being seen in the Roman Catholic Church in its discarding of LATIN in its mass and music.

McCartney quote on back page

6-THOT (M. R. DeHaan)--"Christians, like teakettles, should be able to sing even when they're up to their neck in hot water.

7-Remember, It is only a SICK bird that has no song. Are you WELL or SICK?

8-Do you participate in singing?

Rev. 5:9-10--"And they sung a new song saying, Thou art worthy to take the scroll, & to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, & hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred & tongue & people & nation; & hast made us unto our God kings & priests..."

B.-Involvement By Confession And Prayer:
1-Not just "prayed for" by others
2-Not just "led in prayer" by Pastor
3-Neh. 9:1-2--"Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers."
4-Several occasions in Scr.---"They prayed with prayer" (Literal transl.)
5-United confession of sin
6-United petition for blessing
7-Do you participate in confession and prayer? - or just observe others praying?

C.-Involvement By Responsive Reading:
1-Out of YOUR OWN BIBLE, not out of the back of the HYMNBOOK
2-After the confession of Neh. 9:1-2, see 9:3--"And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they

confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God."
3-As to the centrality of the WORD, Dr. J. J. Van Oosterzee remarked that "Christianity is par excellance the religion of the Word"
4-Do you participate in the responsive reading of the Scr?

D.-Involvement By Testimony?
1-Have you ever given a public testimony ?
2-It pleases God:
--Ps. 107:1-2--"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy."
--Ps. 49:3--"My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding."
--1 Pet. 3:15--"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."
3-Testimony is a STRENGTHENING EXERCISE:
--To others who hear and have confirmation of God's dealings in their own lives
--To others who hear and are informed and schooled in advance as to the way God deals with His own
--To you
--To unsaved, it is a witness
--SOME NEVER HAVE given testimony
--If you've not, you're missing something good!
4-Do you participate by giving testimony?

Spontaneous praise is a mark of the working of the Spirit

Disorder is not a mark of the Spirit —— but of CONFUSION

E.-Involvement By Giving:
1-First mention of the term "worship" is in Gen. 22:5, where it is in close association with giving of sacrifice
2-Giving is to be a COSTLY part of our worship, not a light part
3-ILLUS----
----2 Sam. 24:18-24 (Read)

LAb. did not go to worship expecting to "GET" anything, but to GIVE —— and that the BEST he had.

4-Giving is a measure and opportunity to "prove the sincerity of your love" (2 Cor. 8:8-9)
5-Summary of PARTICIPATION-----Heb. 13:15-16--"By him, therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good, and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."
5-How do I----you-----we, measure up in PARTICIPATION in giving?

II.-INSTRUCTION FOR WORSHIP:

A.-Instruction By Listening:
1-Worship is not just forms, exercises, or even involvements
2-Worship is not just speaking to God
3-Worship is GOD SPEAKING TO US too.
4-Questions are proper:
--Did you hear God?
--What did God say?
--Did you really worship?
5-Worship is a RECIPROCAL EXPERIENCE !
6-LISTEN as well as participating

We need a regular INTAKE as well as OUTPUT in Service .... Both are important !

B.-Instruction By Decorum: BEING or By

1-Example---of others to you
---of you to others

2-Does this example "square" with the truth of God?

2 Pet. 3:11b "... what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy manner of life & godliness,

3-Your example can be a HELP to worship

4-Your example can be a HINDRANCE to worship

- Talking
- Lack of interest
- Sleeping
- Figetting

5-What would the worship service be like if everyone's decorum was just like yours?-----HELP
HINDRANCE
PANDEMONIUM?

6-1 Cor. 4:9--"For I think that God hat set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men."

7-Some are saved by "just watching" the lives of Christians

8-Certainly "just watching" Stephen's death was a powerful influence in bringing Saul to Christ.

9-You are a "spectacle".....are the spectacles clear & clean, or are they a bit smudged?

C.-Instruction By Preaching:

1-"Preaching is the climax of worship, for this is God speaking to His people...It is His Word demanding a verdict in my life this is the vision which calls for obedience" (Frederick S. Leahy--Christianity Today--Sept. 12, 1960)

2-Very contrary to the hue and cry in some quarters for "more worship and less preaching"

3-Dr. J. J. Van Oosterzee reminds us that the Pastor is "impelled and called to lead his flock, so far as possible as one whole, in the pasture of the Word."

--Means of SALVATION

--1 Cor. 1:21-24--"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom, But we preach Christ crucified,unto the Jews a stumblingblock and unto the Greeks foolishness, But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God & the wisdom of God."

--Means of instruction for believers

--Neh. 8:8, 12, 13--"So they read in the book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading....And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, & to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them. And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law."

--Protestant Reformation was a RETURN TO THE PREACHED WORD OF GOD

* --Therefore, NO DIVIDED CHANCEL in any truly Protestant Ch.

--That's reserved for those who share the Roman Catholic Church's ritualistic sacramentarianism where the worship goes to "OUR WAFER CHRIST"

* --"True preaching...issues in that crucial encounter between Christ and the soul" (Frederick S. Leahy)

ILLUS.- U. of C. student who visited Westbrae just once. Died in sleep at age of 21 of a heart attack w/ alarm clock set to come to worship at Westbrae.

--No wonder RICHARD BAXTER.....the man who is said to have preached as a dying man to dying men..... wrote: "It is no small matter to stand up in the face of a congregation, and deliver a message of salvation or damnation as from the living God, in the name of our Redeemer."

4-Authority in preaching — dual

--grows out of THE WORD OF GOD
--grows out of THE LIFE OF THE PROCLAIMER
--As Leahy says: "Why should I pay heed? The answer lies in the fact that all Scripture is 'God-breathed' and therefore of supreme authority. It is precisely this point that sets Christians poles apart from pagan religions."
--Dr. Wm. G. T. Shedd was right when he wrote, "Unless Christendom possesses a superior knowledge, it has no right to instruct heathendom; and unless the Christian clergy are endowed with the authority of a special revelation, and can bring credentials therefore, they have no right to speak to their fellow-men upon the subjects of human duty and destiny."
--Shedd continued, "No sacred orator can be bold and commanding in his tone, if he believes or if he fears that there are fatal and irreconcilable inconsistencies in the written revelation."

5-Therefore.....2 Cor. 4:1-7

PREACHING FOR DECISIONS!

CONCLUSION:

A.-Elements Of Worship:

1-Attitudes toward worship--Promptness
--Silence
--Adoration & Praise
--Concentration
--"In the Spirit"
--Reverence

Involvement

2-~~Participation~~ In & Expression of worship
--Singing
--Prayer & Confession
--Responsive Reading of Scripture
--Testimony
--Giving

3-Instruction For Worship--Listening to God
--Being (Decorum) before God
--Preaching for God

Engagement in ~~INVITATION TO~~ WORSHIP — YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

B.-Therefore---1 Chron. 16:29-31, 34, 36:

--"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
"Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.
"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.
"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.
"Blessed be the LORD God of Israel for ever and ever. And

all the people said, Amen, and praised the LORD."

— Clarence Macartney told of visiting a rather mediocre service with a poor sermon in Cornwall, England — but also of remembering for many years that the preacher had well said: "We do not really love or worship God until we love & admire the things which God requires & which God loves."

In other words — Worship is that to which we give our interest, our enthusiasm, & our devotion!!

How's — YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE?

INDEED: "True worship is not LIP service but LIFE service"

— Def. by William Temple, a former Archbishop of Canterbury — "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind w/ the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open up the heart to the love of God, & to devote the will to the purpose of God."

Macartney — "When a congregation sing together, speaking to themselves, to one another, & to God in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs & making melody in their hearts to the Lord — then come to the surface all the great traditions of the past, all the great convictions of the present, & all the glorious hopes for the future." (P. 418 of Illus. Book)

Hymns: ~~Holy, Holy, Holy~~ — 20
~~The King Of Love~~ Westbrae 8/16/64
The Name Of Jesus — 9 10/10/71
I Am Resolved — 436

See revised message at Ex 3:1-6

Revival.....Then What? 2 Chr. 7:14

WHAT DOES REVIVAL MEAN? — 2Cor. 5:6-21; Ep. 4:1-3

Intro: A.-Attitude:

1-ILLUS---A young man spent an entire evening telling his girl friend how much he loved her. He said that he could not live without her; that he'd go to the ends of the earth for her; yes, go thru fire for her, or die for her. When leaving for the evening he said, "I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT---IF IT DOESN'T RAIN"--------How often we say we love God, yet deny it by our actions.

2-Is that your attitude toward God & His work?

--If it doesn't rain
--If it doesn't inconvenience me
--If I don't have to do anything
--If I'm not pressed for money
--etc.....ad nauseum

B.-Special Meetings Last Week:

1-Wonderful
2-Salvation to some; Stirring of soul to some.
3-Challenge to all
4-How about NOW??--spiritual life thru faith
--Real desire to Please Him?
--Eph. 4:1-3

I.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR CHRIST:

A.-Backslidden Or Progressing?:

1-No middle ground
2-Reverse the apostasy of Rev. 2:4 by progress — Left your first love.
3-Backslidden if--not growing in love
--not growing in dependence
--not loving Christ more today than yesterday or ever before.

4-ILLUS--A very wealthy man lost his wife when his only child was very young. Then there came into his home a housekeeper to take care ofthat boy. The boy lived until he was of age & then died. The man had not other relatives; & he didd heartbroken soon after the boy died. He had no one to leave his enormous wealth to, & there was a question about what would become of his possessions. They could find no will. It looked as if it would all pass over to the state. At last it was taken over by the state & they held a sale to dispose of all the personal effects at the mansion where he had lived. The old housekeeper who had brought up that boy from infancy, not having any money of her own, being just as poor as when she began to work for this wealthy man, went to the sale. There was only 1 thing she wanted. She couldn't buy the furniture; she couldn't buy the expensive rugs, but there was a picture of the boy. She loved that boy. He had been to her a son, although she held no relationship to him. When the picture came to be sold, nobody else wanted it, & she bought it just for a few cents & took it home. It had been hanging on the wall for some time, & she thought she would take the back out & clean the glass. But when she took it apart, some important looking papers fell out. They were given to a lawyer, who said to the woman, "I guess you have you have come out well this time. This man has left all his wealth to the one who loved his son well enough to buy that picture. GOD WILL DO ANYTHING FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIS SON.

B.-Christ Becomes The Center Of Our Attention:
1-Please Him
2-Be with Him
3-Serve Him
4-Bring others to know Him
5-ILLUS--A celebrated Japanese statesman once said, "We do not worship our emperor, we love him utterly. The commander before Port Arthur one day called for volunteers to cut the barbed wire entanglements. 'You will never come back,' he said. 'Nor can you carry a gun. YOu will take your place & cut 1 or 2 wires & fall dead. Another will take your place & cut 1 or 2 wires more. But you will know that upon your dead bodies the armies of your emperor will march to victory'. Whole regiments volunteered for these 'sure death' parties. IF OUR LOVE AS CHRISTIANS WAS AS CHRIST-CENTERED + Brethren concerned is was their love for an emperor, we would not be long in taking the world for X,

People who gathered in London Art Gallery before Picture of X. One said, "I LOVE HIM" Another replied "SO DO I" + soon a little Knot of men were drawn together because of Him

6-Such a love for the Savior will manifest itself in the following ways:

II.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE WORD OF GOD:

A.-Intake:
1-Salv. is by grace thru faith----BELIEVE & BE SAVED
2-Assur. is by the word----------STUDY & BE APPROVED
3-Necessary for us to become strong--1 Pet. 2:1-3
--2 Pet. 3:18
--Acts 20:32
4-This is the "normal way"; neglect is abnormal

Ps. 119:97
Ps. 1:1-3

B.-Peaceful Repose:
1-Ps. 119:165
2-Knowing & Doing God's will allows no disturbances inside
3-Storms of life rage---but we are at PEACE
4-Only God's Word is able to do this
5-Revival is seen in a REBIBLE

III.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN:

A.-Expression of Revival:
1-Refreshment of Love Toward Christ
2-Drives us to the Word for nourishment
3-Expressed in LOVE FOR BRETHREN
4-ILLUS--- see above for illus

B.-Brother-Love Is Badge of Christian Reality:
1-Standard is "as I have loved you?"---Jn. 15:12
2-Proof is seen here--Jn. 13:34-35
3-Love is active--1 Cor.13:4-7
4-ILLUS--An american who was walking down the streets of a Chinese city was greatly interested in the children, many of whom were carrying smaller children upon their backs, & managing to play their games at the same time. "It's too bad," the American sympathetically said to one little fellow, "that you have to carry such a burden all the time."....."HE'S NO BURDEN," came the quick reply, "HE'S MY BROTHER."-------Love that makes us bear the burden of our brother with joy is the badge of reality

5- Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ