

Light and Life

Revival!

Many people are talking about the Asbury Revival, a non-stop worship service that is said to have begun spontaneously by college students who felt they were being moved by the Holy Spirit following an emotional worship service. Several issues are evident with the religious practice involved in this type of movement, but can good come from it? Perhaps.

Historically, these sort of ‘revivals’ are extremely vague in their purpose. The language used to describe the experiences is often mystical. It’s very difficult to figure out what is happening – even for people who are there! The lasting effects of similar ‘revivals’ in the past are telling. Because these gatherings are largely emotional experiences without concrete lessons in morality, faith, or doctrine, meaningful change in individuals’ lives is relatively minimal.

The media attention and large numbers flocking to these types of ‘revivals’ is impressive, but if we are to affect true revival in our culture or in the lives of individuals there must be concrete and lasting change! Ambiguity and ‘squishy’ messages will do nothing to accomplish this task.

Paul wrote, “Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (II Ti. 4:3). These instructions imply the need for confrontation against sin and deceit. For people to change their lives, they must be made aware that change is needed! When faced with the gospel, people must be led to the question, “what shall we do?” And they must be met with the answer: “Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:37-38). Even revivals of entire cultures must be led to this idea of radical change (II Ch. 7:14).

So, let’s not get wrapped up in ambiguous emotionalism but seek effectual change towards God!

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

Be Worthy, Even When the World is Not

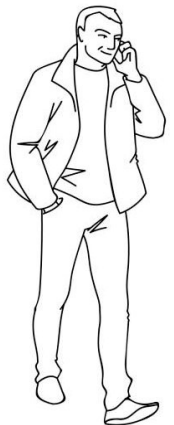
“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ” (Ph 1:27a).

This excerpt from Paul’s letter to the Philippians, though brief, is filled with rich and powerful wisdom. We live in a reaction-driven world. A man often does what he does in reaction to what someone else has done to or for him. Many people base how they behave, how they speak, and how they act on other people. What a foolish way to live one’s life – driven and mastered by the whims of other people!

Paul recognized the way in which the world works. He understood that men and women often make choices that are in reaction to others. And Paul told the Philippians that they must not be like this, like the rest of the world. In this passage, Paul exhorted the Christians in Philippi to be different, and by extension exhorts us to do the same! Many people allow their circumstances, and the actions of others, to dictate their lives. Many people seek revenge, recompense, or justice; and often their actions are motivated by this pursuit.

But Paul instructs the Christian to not pursue such trivial things. He wrote that in all things, no matter what happens, we are to conduct ourselves in a worthy manner, according to the Gospel of Christ. We are tempted in this life to react in a like manner to those who harm us or wish us ill; but this is not the way of the Cross. The way of the Cross pursues Christ and His ways no matter what others may do to us. Let’s make it our daily pursuit to always conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel – no matter what others do or say.

- Hayden Cathey



ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

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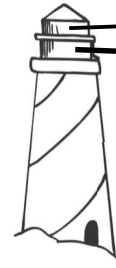
**Church is not
the place you go,
but the family you are.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Diane Willis, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

Q&A – Tonight is our end-of-month question/answer lesson. Sam & Warren will answer questions submitted by our members. Thanks to all our querists!

SENTENCE SERMON – Those who never learn to submit to earthly authorities will never submit to God (parents, pay attention).

It's a popular slogan among Marxists: "The issue is never the issue. The issue is always the Revolution." And we live in a society where 'the Revolution' is alive and well, cloaked in 'issues' like abortion, equity, environmentalism, racism, transgenderism and any other 'issue' the anarchists can stir up to pit people against one another.

But Marxism, along with all other revolutions (just and unjust), will be wiped from the earth on that Day. Thus, despite their efforts, they stir little angst among God's people. But while the 'issues' are no more than cover for the revolution, to the

Christian the 'issue' sometimes IS the issue.

So, while abortion rights have been used as a wedge issue, Christians have a legitimate moral objection to it (Ps 139). Race is once again being used to divide society – but God's Word promotes unity despite cultural differences (Ga 3). While 'equity' is used as cover to blatantly promote a new discrimination, the Bible promotes true equality.

The 'revolution' attempts to silence God's Word because it needs such issues to achieve its goals. God's people must see through it.

- *WKing*