

# The Necessity for Revival in Christian Church's

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The word revival can be misleading for many. I understand for some that word can have a very wide meaning. Some equate it with enthusiasm, widespread conversions, zeal. These things are not bad but the real issue is what is God doing in our hearts? The Restoration Movement is continuing to grow, yet speaking of growth so has apostasy, strife, and spiritual laziness. My personal steadfast conviction is the Christian Churches' and Church of Christs' stand in desperate need of revival through the Spirit's power. I believe my implications for true revival would apply in many areas for "churches" It will be my primary aim as I am committed to the historic principles of the Restoration Movement, thus I will direct my attention to them. I will seek to defend my position in four elements. *First*, we need to revive a burning passion for the glory of Christ. *Second*, we need to be dripping Scripture. *Third*, we need more prayer. *Fourth*, we need to be found doing the Master's will when He comes back.

## Revive A Burning Passion for the Glory of Christ

I am just a donkey preacher running along many terebrids, I understand that. I was not born in a "Restoration Movement" home and I don't have a lot of degrees. I am in the process of scholarly work and my life goal is to become a Christian scholar knowing this will take a life-time. *Why?* So, I can learn more and more about The One who gave His life for me and so that I can love Him more and more! Having said that, my humble opinion is this: I believe many Christian Churches' are more concerned with being right about their exegesis and doctrine than we are for a true love to the triune God. You might ask how have you- being a runt of the litter of all these great and mighty preachers came to this assessment? I simply say unto you... this assessment comes out in the preaching of the many great terebrids, as well as of the Christian life. Upon my assessment, there is often no Christ and no gospel at all. We have forgotten that the Spirit came primarily to glorify Christ, so that through Him we come to the Father (John

16:8-14; Eph. 2:18). What would cause this to be lacking in the Christian life? I believe it could be summed up in this one statement, a devoid of doxology. One would think that the older we grow in Christ the more we would begin to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit. So, what has happened is the doctrine that we know and affirm has not traveled to the heart thus, what you have is a church full of “doctrine drones” who can recite the plan of salvation and different doctrines yet all the while, never actually praise the Triune God. I do understand each individual will express his/her zeal differently. I am simply making the case that a zeal for theology and a zeal for doxology must go hand in hand. This is the greatest need for the Restoration Movement a zeal for the Glory of Christ which will keep us anchored on truth. If this doesn’t happen the church will move into liberalism or legalism, Satan really doesn’t mind beloved which way we go, both and hell bent.

### We Need to Be Dripping Scripture

I suppose that one could say that this element is a means to pursue the first. If were going to get series about God Almighty reviving or zeal for Jesus, then this zeal for God’s glory must flow from our life’s. The only means for that to be accomplished is the Spirit of God and the Word of God (John 17:17). Holy Scripture is the means that the Lord Jesus uses to nurture faith, hope, and a deep love to God, and the holiness within the Christian. The central claim of the Restoration Movement was a call back to the book. We are to be a people of ‘The Book’. This is one of the great precious promises of Scripture that the Lord would put His word in our mouths and His Spirit in our hearts, and that He would do so for generations (Isa. 59:20-21). As a minister, I know of the struggle of only reading my Bible for sermon preparation (especially preparing three sermons a week) Church members who cannot find the Sermon on the Mount in their Bibles or recite the Ten Commandments. In regards to family worship, we are quick to bash the old 17<sup>th</sup> Century puritans for their five-pointer theology but at least they were devoted to family worship. Many of us in the Church of Christ don’t even read the Bible with our families. In regards to High Scholler’s they can tell you 5,000 reasons why a person should be baptized, but are taught nothing on apologetics and how to defend Christ within a secular progressive culture (1 Pet. 3:15; Jude 3).

How can we expect a zeal for the Glory of Christ when we are playing soccer mom and soccer dad and not dripping Scripture? It seems we would rather read theological books, go to a Christian camp, be zealous in sermon preparation, or argue with a Baptist and being right, than we are with hearing God's voice speak to us in Scripture. God help us! We need ministers who are like Apollos, mighty in Scriptures, and we need church members who love, study, and drip Scripture because they love God's voice and love Him for what He has provided.

### We Need More Prayer

Without prayer there is no life of the Spirit in the soul and at that point we become deaf to the hearing of God's Word. It is the first indicator of someone who shows up for church and can't wait until the preacher is done. The Spirit is the Spirit of grace and supplication (Zech. 12:10), he leads us to cry out to the Father in Jesus' name (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6) and we must pray always in the Spirit (Eph. 6:18; Jude 20). This is why a revival of dripping Scripture is so important because if we neglect studying the Word then prayer becomes a much harder spiritual discipline to develop. I will be the first to say I know I am not the only Christian who struggle with prayer, always wishing that I pray more and better. Yet when we read the Bible, the question is this, do we pray for the Spirit to drive us to glorify the Father through Christ? Do we lead our families in prayer? Do our churches have prayer meetings? It is interesting to me to watch Christians do exegeses gymnastics, in regards to the reality that the church in Acts meet for daily prayer. The gymnastics Christians engage in to downplay prayer meetings is ridiculous. If you listen carefully one will see the objections are often theological.

We should pray because prayer is the first and foremost act of worship to the Triune God. We should pray because God tells us that we do not have because we do not ask. We should pray for the lost and pray that we will be focused on His glory, His name, and the spread of His kingdom (church). I am fully convinced that if our prayers contained more praise then we would uphold a higher view of God which in return would lead to higher elevated living. All revival starts with being on our knees. Knowledge of the Word is important, but no man or woman of God is greater than their prayer life.

## We Need To Be found Doing The Master's Will When He Returns

The truth is the exhortation comes from Jesus Himself (Matthew 24:26; Luke 12:35). The Christian is commanded to love the Lord with our hearts, minds, souls and strength in our work. It seems many ministers today are lazy and no good. They would rather preach a sermon already prepared by a terebrid rather than engage in some brain sweet of their own. The same is true among men of the congregation regarding communion meditations. There is no problem in this if there given permission, but my point is this, they revert to this because they have no interest in gaining any knowledge of their own. Sitting and watching John Wayne or scrolling on Facebook is more entertaining than preparation, prayer, and study. They can become like the man who hid his talent in a napkin, expect in their case after gaining a little bit of interest instead of none. Beloved, may we remember the exhortation given to Timothy to let his progress be evident to all, taking heed to himself and to his doctrine, that he might save himself and those who heard him (1 Tim. 4:15-16).

This is why I appreciate about all Alexander Campbell. What we have here is a serious student V. Glenn McCoy captures the essence of Campbell's studies in his book '*Return to the Old Paths*' he says:

“Under his father's guidance he read extensively in literature, philosophy and religion. He also studied Latin and Greek under his father. His memory became remarkably retentive. On one occasion he memorized 60 lines of blank verse in 52 minutes without missing a word. Alexander Campbell grew up in a home that had a respect for the Bible. The Seceder Presbyterian Church required each family to have daily family worship. Thomas and Jane Campbell required each family member to memorize portions of the Scriptures during the day to be recited at the evening devotion. All the passages learned during the week were to be repeated again on the Lord's day. Later in life Alexander Campbell commented on his parents, “to my mother as well as my father, I am indebted for having

memorized in early life almost all the writings of King Solomon, his Proverbs, his Ecclesiastics, and many of the Psalms of his father David.”

### Conclusion

We need revival. We need revival in our hearts I am afraid more than we realize. Many beloved churches are dying at the vine. If we are going to reverse the trend of decline, we must get back to the book. I have wondered how many of us have a name that we live while we are dead (Revelation 3:1). How many Churches can quote doctrine but the glory departed long ago? If the true church is going to be revived than we can be ignorant of the Bible, we will need to quickly implement prayer meetings, and will use our God given talents because we love Him and not bury them under a napkin. The Lord Jesus expects an investment regarding discipleship (Matthew 25:27). Living for the glory of God and knowing and enjoying Scripture, cultivating prayer and growing in holiness (1 Thess. 4:3) this is His will. It is the only way revival will come. Let us repent of our apathy and turn to honor the Father, by loving the Son in the power of the Spirit.