

Revival & Reformation: The Two Must Blend

Scripture Reading:

Philipians 4:4, Colossians 2:6,

Introduction:

We have covered some important areas in the revival of the Spirit and today we will seek by the grace of God seek to examine both revival and reformation. We will begin with this important reading.

Revival And Reformation

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 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 February 25, 1902 par 2

A Renewal of Spiritual Life

God was calling in 1902 for a revival and reformation at that time. Is it needed today? There was need for a quickening of the powers of the mind and heart and a resurrection from spiritual death.

God has a most important work to be done in this generation. He sees the need of the hour and He's seeking to arouse His people to their present duty.

God's New Covenant Promise.

³¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: ³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:31-33

A Problem?

⁸ For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: ⁹Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. ⁶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

What Were The Faulty Promises?

⁴ Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: ⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. ⁷ And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him. ⁸ And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord. Exodus 19:4-8

God's Promise

God had promised to make the children of Israel a kingdom of priests. They instead promised to do the work and fell short. God has demonstrated that Adam's sin has redounded to the much more abundant grace of God being exercised to fallen mankind. Lets Read Romans 5:15:

¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. KJV

Let's read it in the God's Word Translation and Amplified Bible:

There is no comparison between God's gift and Adam's failure. If humanity died as the result of one person's failure, it is certainly true that God's kindness and the gift given through the kindness of one person, Jesus Christ, have been showered on humanity. God's Word Translation

But the free gift [of God] is not like the trespass [because the gift of grace overwhelms the fall of man]. For if many died by one man's trespass [Adam's sin], much more [abundantly] did God's grace and the gift [that comes] by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to [benefit] the many. Amplified Bible Translation

Humanity is in fact born forgiven and rescued in Jesus Christ though they do not know it. It is upon hearing this good news that quickens the heart and mind and also resurrects from spiritual death! This is what the apostle Paul means when he says "... the goodness of God [that] leadeth thee to repentance." Romans 2:4

Reformation

This is reorganization according to the will of God making God will supreme. Listen again to the Apostle in Colossians 2:6

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Colossians 2:6

Reformation occurs under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Therefore the Holy Spirit through the word of God must guide and direct the reform. Any other method is not according to God's design.

Reformation Connected With Revival.

Unless the Holy Spirit directs the work of revival and reform then it will not produce the work God intends.

“Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Christ gave His life for a fallen race, leaving us an example that we should follow in His steps. To him who does this will be spoken the words of approval, “Well done, good and faithful servant; ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

The word of the Lord never represses activity. It increases man's usefulness by guiding his activities in the right direction. The Lord does not leave man without an object of pursuit. He places before him an immortal inheritance, and gives him ennobling truth, that he may advance in a safe and sure path, in pursuit of that which is worth the consecration of his highest capabilities,—a crown of everlasting life.

Man will increase in power as he follows on to know the Lord. As he endeavors to reach the highest standard, the Bible is as a light to guide his footsteps homeward. In that word he finds that he is a joint heir with Christ to an eternal treasure. The Guidebook points him to the unsearchable riches of heaven. By following on to know the Lord, he is securing never-ending happiness. Day by day the peace of God is his reward, and by faith he sees a home of everlasting sunshine, free from all sorrow and disappointment. God directs his footsteps, and keeps him from falling.

God loves His Church. There are tares mingled with the wheat, but the Lord knows His own. “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Shall not the counsel of Christ have an effect on the churches? Why halt, ye who know the truth, between two opinions? “If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.” Christ's followers have no right to stand on the ground of neutrality. There is more hope of an open enemy than of one who is neutral.

Let the Church respond to the words of the prophet, “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.” God's people have

lost their first love. They must now repent and make steady advancement in the path of holiness. God's purposes reach to every phase of life. They are immutable, eternal; and at the time appointed they will be executed.

For a time it may seem that Satan has all the power in his hands; but our trust is in God. When we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us, and will work with mighty power to accomplish His gracious purposes. God rebukes His people for their sins, that He may humble them, and lead them to seek His face. As they reform, and His love revives in their hearts, His loving answers will come to their requests. He will strengthen them in reformatory action, lifting up for them a standard against the enemy. His rich blessing will rest upon them, and in bright rays they will reflect the light of heaven. Then a multitude not of their faith, seeing that God is with His people, will unite with them in serving the Redeemer.

Appeal

Scripture encourages the people of God to direct their minds on Jesus and be every Joyful in the eternal scenes that are promised. Philipians 4:4 says:

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Philipians 4:4

Yours in the work of Revival and Reformation

Elder Ryan Griffith

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