



Network for Revival March 2019

Revival is here!

Revival is here because Revival is God and he is omnipresent. More specifically, revival is God revealing himself unusually. We're so close to revival. We are surrounded by revival because we are surrounded by God. Pray for him to remove the veil and show his powerful, loving, holy presence, so that many may decide to enter the Kingdom.

Revival for the sake of the lost

One of the most serious developments in society and in much of the church is the lack of fear of God. God has effectively become some Santa Claus figure in the sky. He is kindly, smiles on our naughtiness and is there to grant us goodies. So he can be safely ignored. And, of course, he is. This is a serious satanic deceit.

Let me say that I write this as someone who believes passionately in the love of God. In fact, since I have been majoring on prayer for revival I have been overwhelmed by the biblical teaching on the love of God. Every morning I briefly remind myself of 14 key biblical passages about his love. I find them quite moving.

However, we need to remember both "the kindness and sternness of God" as Paul puts it in Rom 11:22. The fact is that Jesus speaks more about Hell than anyone else in the NT. He uses quite graphic language (Matt 5:22, 5:29-30 cf. 18:9; 10:28; 13:40-42; 23:33; 25:41-46; Luke 16:23-28). Yes, he uses symbolism but it is clear that he is referring to literal truth. And he clearly doesn't believe in annihilation at death or that everybody goes to heaven in the end. It is easy to want to believe (or disbelieve) something so much that we finish up convincing ourselves of an untruth. To do this over Hell is to contradict Jesus – yet he is the epitome of love.

Of course, in the past especially, Hell has sometimes been taught about in an insensitive, unloving way, and we must avoid that. But not to take seriously the fact that unbelievers are on what Jesus called the broad road "that leads to destruction" (which I find profoundly distressing) is very unloving. I regularly think of people who are on "the broad road," including some who may be drawing close to the end of it. It is really distressing but also a strong incentive to continue in God's calling to pray for revival.

So another powerful motive for praying and preparing for revival is that it would direct many people onto the narrow road that leads to life. I have written previously of praying for revival for God's sake – for the sake of his name and his grief. But we also pray because of the desperate need of those who have not come to faith in Christ. Surely our love must go out to them, particularly in prayer for revival.

(My detailed paper on the subject of Hell is at <http://www.christianteaching.org.uk/thetruthaboutHell.html>)

Quotations about revival

A description of the cottage meetings in the Port of Ness, at the northern tip of the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides
Revival: "These cottage meetings took place every night in different homes and people would flock in from the church to gather once again to the Word and to sing and pray together. This would go on until all hours of the night or early morning. The home would be filled with people, in the front room where the speaker was, but every room, with the stairs affording seating for many as well. At times others would be listening at the windows when they could not get in. A great deal of spiritual work was done in these cottage meetings, with their informality and friendliness They were times of great rejoicing and also of great conviction when many sought the Lord. It did not matter to which denomination you belonged, you were always welcome in the cottage meetings. I can remember coming home on one occasion at six in the morning when the revival was in full flow." (Colin & Mary Peckham, *Sounds from Heaven*, p. 140).

Update on persecution

The Lord has called us to make ready a people prepared for the Lord, a people hastening the Return of Christ through praying and preparing for revival. So there is a definite emphasis on the End Times in Network for Revival. One sign Jesus tells us to expect pointing towards his return is great persecution of Christians. In the brief attached paper you will see an update on the very serious and growing level of persecution of Christians. I pray daily for our persecuted brothers and sisters but keep it separate from my prayer for revival because I don't want anything to undermine the latter. The paper outlines that:

- 75% of persecution is against Christians.
- 245 million Christians are persecuted in 144 countries.
- At least 250 Christians were killed for their faith every month

Much persecution of Christians takes place in Muslim countries. But Muslims are turning to Christ. Revival can transform persecutors as it did with Paul on the Damascus Road. He experienced a personal revival – special revelation of God – and became a strong advocate of Christianity.

For an earlier update on persecution see <http://christianteaching.org.uk/blog/eschatology/update-on-persecution-december-2016/>

Can you make links for us?

I'm grateful that some of you have mentioned Network for Revival to others. If you know people who are intercessors please tell them about us. The stronger the network is, the better it will be for society and the church – and for God's purposes.

God bless you. I am praying for you regularly (by name). Please pray for me.

Tony

Revival is a supernatural event in the church and society. It is a work of the Holy Spirit which brings: an overpowering sense of God's presence leading to uplifting, inspired worship; an awesome sense of God's holiness leading to a deep conviction of sin, even amongst those outside the church; a supernatural drawing of people together and an outpouring of love for one another, all of which leads to a huge number coming to faith. People's lives and whole communities are transformed.