

Revival Study Part 2

Revival in the New Testament: Revelation 2-3

Handout from the class taught by Pastor Doug Livingston, September 19, 2012

Background: The Church was born on Pentecost (30 A.D.) when about 3,000 souls were saved & became followers of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:1-41). Read verses 42-47.

Towards the end of the 1st century, many of the churches were in need of revival:

The church in Ephesus had “left her first love” (Ephesians 1:15; Revelation 2:4).

The church at Pergamum had tolerated the false teachings of Balaam: covetousness, sexual immorality & idol worship (14) & the Nicolaitans: clerical hierarchy (15).

The church in Thyatira had tolerated the false teaching of Jezebel: sexual immorality, witchcraft & idol worship (20).

The church in Sardis had made a name for herself, but was spiritually dead (3:1).

And, the church in Laodicea was “lukewarm” because she had become wealthy & did not need the Lord (15-17).

The Lord Jesus, the Head of the Church, told each of these churches to “repent.” William Vine defines repent: “To change one’s mind or purpose, always, in the NT, involving a change for the better.”

The Church in Corinth some 30 years earlier had become “carnal” because of immaturity (I Corinthians 3:1-3). This produced the following results in her:

1. Division over leadership - Paul, Apollos, Peter (4, 5, 22).
2. Sexual immorality & boasting about it (Chapter 5). Read verses 9-11.
3. Lawsuits against other believers (Chapter 6:1-8).
4. Foods sacrificed to idols, causing weaker brothers to stumble (Chapter 8).
5. Abuse of the Lord’s Supper (Chapter 11:17-22).
6. Abuse of the gifts of the Spirit, especially speaking in tongues (Chapter 14).

Now, see II Corinthians 7:1-12.

8. “My letter” is I Corinthians. It is believed Paul is referring here to the incident of sexual sin in Chapter 5. When they first read what he wrote, they were grieved by it.

9. Then, they were grieved of their sin to the point of repentance.

10. NIV: “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation & leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” R. C. Sproul: “Here, the term does not specifically refer to initial repentance that must accompany salvation (Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19; 17:30; 26:20), but to a turning from sin in the life of a Christian.” 11. Charles Ryrie: “They had vindicated themselves in regard to Paul’s accusations by their change of behavior.”