

LECTURES ON REVIVAL FOR A LAODICEAN CHURCH



Pulpit at Hanham Mount (in use by EA Johnstone)

E.A. Johnston in Various Pulpits

E.A. Johnston

**LECTURES ON REVIVAL
FOR
A LAODICEAN CHURCH**

E. A. JOHNSTON

Lectures On Revival For A Laodicean Church

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By Dr. E. A. Johnston

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COVER PHOTOS:

E. A. Johnston in various pulpits

The first image on the left is Wesley's New Room in Bristol, England. The middle image is the pulpit of St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester, England, from which George Whitefield preached his first sermon and 15 people made professions of faith. The third image is Whitefield's outdoor pulpit in England.

DEDICATION

The following chapters on the study of revival are dedicated with warm esteem to a man whom God raised up to republish my written works in a day of spiritual declension, to whom I am very grateful: DR. H. D. WILLIAMS, Publisher Old Paths Publications.

E. A. Johnston
January 2024

SAMPLE PAGES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| DEDICATION..... | 3 |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS..... | 5 |
| PREFACE..... | 7 |
| CHAPTER ONE: DARK TIMES..... | 9 |
| CHAPTER TWO: REALIZING OUR NEED FOR REVIVAL .. | 13 |
| CHAPTER THREE: REALIZING OUR SPIRITUAL DECAY . | 19 |
| CHAPTER FOUR: ABSENCE: AUTHORITY AND POWER. | 25 |
| CHAPTER FIVE: PRAYING FOR REVIVAL | 29 |
| CHAPTER SIX: WHAT IS REVIVAL?..... | 37 |
| CHAPTER SEVEN: MEN OF REVIVAL..... | 57 |
| CHAPTER EIGHT: THE MAN GOD USES | 69 |
| CHAPTER NINE: JONATHAN EDWARDS..... | 75 |
| CHAPTER TEN: VISITING SCENES OF REVIVAL..... | 81 |
| JONATHAN EDWARDS | 82 |
| GEORGE WHITEFIELD | 83 |
| JOHN WESLEY | 85 |
| D. L. MOODY | 86 |
| SAM JONES..... | 87 |
| ASAHEL NETTLETON | 87 |
| CHAPTER ELEVEN: PREPARING FOR REVIVAL | 89 |
| CHAPTER TWELVE: PREACHING FOR REVIVAL | 101 |
| CHAPTER THIRTEEN: FALSE FIRE | 105 |
| CHAPTER FOURTEEN: THE INSINCERITY OF REVIVAL | 109 |
| CHAPTER FIFTEEN: A NEEDED ENCOUNTER | 113 |
| CHAPTER SIXTEEN: THE REDUCING OF REVIVAL | 115 |
| CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: THE MYTHS OF REVIVAL..... | 119 |
| CHAPTER EIGHTEEN SUGGESTED REVIVAL BOOKS . | 123 |
| ABOUT THE AUTHOR..... | 127 |
| BOOKS BY E. A. JOHNSTON..... | 128 |

SAMPLE PAGES

PREFACE

Desperate times call for desperate prayer but who is desperate enough to pray desperately? As society spins out of control into moral chaos, the church lies in a deep spiritual stupor unaware of the encroaching danger around her, much like Jonah asleep in the side of the ship in the midst of the storm.

What cataclysmic events must occur to get the people of God's attention? If tragedy and calamity do not drive us to our knees in prayer, what will?

This book is a call to our knees. A call to revival. It is a call to a return to vital Apostolic Christianity, where Christ is once again preeminent in the church and prominent in the life and a power of God in our meetings.

E. A. Johnston

SAMPLE PAGES

CHAPTER ONE

DARK TIMES

“John Wesley and George Whitefield stood out like two brilliant diamonds against the dark velvet backdrop of a degenerate Age and an apostate church, mainly comprised of an unconverted ministry.”

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We look around us today and wonder at the darkness of our times—where perversion permeates the very fabric of society and the Church lies impotent as an outdated institution. The Nation lies under the remedial judgments of God (Amos chapter four) where calamity and natural disasters increase with great severity. We turn on the news and see reports of floods, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes and disasters and it reads like a page from the Old Testament. Almighty God through His remedial judgments is displaying mercy to draw us back to Him. But yet, we do not heed the warnings nor even recognize them as Divine displeasure against us! Blindly, we press on and sin more and more and fill our cup of iniquity as a nation

until our destruction is a reality—and America and England, once two great nations for God lie in the ash heap of ruined civilizations like ancient Rome and ancient Greece.

Sadly, at a time when society and the church need revival the most, they are least interested in returning to the God of the Bible. There is no fear of God in the land and no fear of God in the church. Antinomianism is rampant in our congregations and holiness is a taboo subject!

We preach a man-centered Gospel focused on the happiness and satisfaction of man. We have shrunken God down to man's size and taken salvation out of the hands of God and placed it in the hands of men. We get saved when we are good and ready by a decision we make, rather than the regenerating Spirit of God. Most so-called believers today sit on the rotten foundation of a empty religious profession that was still-birthed by easy believeism. Ninety percent of our congregations are yet unregenerate individuals with no reality of God in the life.

Our pulpits are occupied mainly by entertainers or CEO's who know how to run a corporation but they don't know God. In our pulpits stand teachers and not preachers, who

either just dish out information or funny stories, or read a Bible passage with a fill-in-the blank teaching methodology. We desire to keep our congregations busy and occupied during the service but there is no spiritual depth or transformation of the life. So we meet each Sunday for fellowship, sing a few upbeat songs while we clap our hands and sway our hips and we listen to non-expository message and we hand in our envelope with our tithe and we call that Christianity. Meanwhile, the world perishes and Hell fills up by the minute! Jesus never meant for us to build large buildings for our own creature comforts to present a “come and hear message” rather, His was a “go and tell Gospel” of the Great Commission. Your average so-called Christian today has no personal witness in their community—they don’t even witness to their lost loved ones or neighbors. Like I already stated, our times are a very dark time and time is running out!

SAMPLE PAGES

CHAPTER TWO

REALIZING OUR NEED FOR REVIVAL

“In 1740 when God moved through New England it was called ‘The Great Awakening.’ Revival has often been referred to as ‘an awakening.’ At Gethsemane, Jesus faced the ‘crisis point’ of His earthly ministry and His disciples slept right through it. Today the church is in a ‘crises point’ and we are sleeping right through it.”

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In the book of Hosea there is an interesting comparison of the backslidden Jews to an unbaked cake. We read in Hosea, chapter seven and in verses eight and nine: “Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.” Meaning it is half-baked; done only on one side. The side that is visible appears to be presentable for nourishment but underneath it is uncooked and inedible! The Jews in the days

of Hosea were enjoying a period of peace and material prosperity under the reign of King Jeroboam II of Israel. But despite their outward prosperity they were spiritually bankrupt and so backslidden they were completely unaware of their spiritual decay. God tells them,

“Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not” (Hosea 7:9).

And God laments in chapter eleven,

“And my people are bent to backsliding from me.”

Today, the modern church is backslidden and completely unaware of her condition! We have a perfect picture of this from the Book of Revelation concerning the Laodicean Church. Jesus tells them,

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wast cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because

thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:15-17).

A self-satisfied, self-reliant people are distasteful to a thrice holy God! There was a time long ago, when the church had power and influence in the land because the people of God relied entirely upon God in their daily living and service to Him. But the modern church figured out that we can get things done faster with money and manpower—but the church in former days operated on prayer and Holy Ghost power! Only a heaven sent revival can awaken us to our desperate and deplorable condition!

I was talking to Iain Murray, who was ninety-two at the time, about revival and I asked him the following question: “What do you feel is the greatest need for revival today?” He chuckled and replied, “Well, that’s a pretty good question, isn’t it?” and then he said, “First, we must appreciate the need for revival, and then believe what God can do to bring revival about; and to know our dependency is entirely upon Him.” I thought that was an

excellent answer. The church at this hour must recognize the NEED for revival. We must exercise the faith and grace to believe a Sovereign God will send us revival. We must not rely on fleshly efforts to bring it about but we can prepare our hearts while we wait upon Him. A good illustration of this is what my homiletical mentor Dr. Stephen F. Olford described about revival, he said,

“I am forcefully reminded of an expository sermon on revival I heard from the lips of the great Dr. G. Campbell Morgan during my theological studies in London, England—many years ago! What the doctor had to say has helped me to understand how God and man come together in his holy business of praying down revival from heaven.

“Let me paraphrase what I heard and remember. Revival is a sovereign work of God. Jesus declared, ‘The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes.

So is everyone who is born (or revived) of the Spirit' (John 3:8).

“Only God can command the revival wind. But, we must set our sails to catch the wind when GOD BLOWS! There you have it: we cannot produce revival, but we can ready ourselves to receive it when it comes.”

When sleepy-headed pastors wake up to realize the need for revival, then and only then, will they pray aright and call their people to gather together to seek the Lord of glory to rain His righteousness down upon them in plentiful effusions of His grace!

SAMPLE PAGES

CHAPTER THREE

REALIZING OUR SPIRITUAL DECAY

“When we are not exercising our graces we are slumbering in spiritual decay. Had Noah exercised his graces more than guzzling his grapes, he would not have lain naked in his tent sleeping off his hangover. Had Lot been exercising his graces more than worrying about his skin, he would have been more aware to the depravity of his daughters. Had David been exercising his graces by leading a battle for God rather than reclining on his couch he would have avoided the nakedness of Bathsheba and following the lustful inclinations of his heart.”

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When the people of God fail to exercise their graces and fear God and serve Him with their whole heart, then they fall into the most

grievous and aggravated sins against the Almighty without any concern for anyone but themselves and their own sinful gratification. The church today is ripe with antinomianism from the pulpit to the pew. The prevailing philosophy in our churches seems to be “once saved always saved, therefore I can sin all I want to and still go to heaven.”

Holiness is a taboo subject in our pulpits today and many churches have fallen into compromise and conformity to the evil society in which they exist. When churches relax and recline rather than kneel and intercede we lose our power with God and our witness to the world. Instead of being on our knees and in our Bibles we are on our couches watching tv. We are full of the world instead of being full of the Spirit. The first step back to God is repentance; God declares: “*Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts*” (Malachi 3:7). The first step toward revival is to be honest with ourselves in regard to our own spiritual condition and realize our spiritual decay. If we fail to realize our spiritual decay we will not recognize the need for revival! When the people of God realize their spiritual decay they will awaken out of their spiritual stupor and proclaim with Ephraim,



Desperate Times Call For Desperate Prayer

Desperate times call for desperate prayer but who is desperate enough to pray desperately? As society spins out of control into moral chaos, the church lies in a deep spiritual stupor unaware of the encroaching danger around her, much like Jonah asleep in the side of the ship in the midst of the storm.

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