

Baptist Pillar

9/17/2020

Jan. Feb. Mar. 21

1 Timothy 3:15

BIBLE BAPTIST



CHURCH

Brandon  Manitoba

*Psalm 46:1+2 God is our refuge and strength, a
very present help in trouble.*

Therefore will not we fear...

Winter is upon us here in Brandon, Manitoba. As I write this, the weatherman is calling for lows of -39c over the next few days. This, for me, is when I really need to remember the words of the Apostle Paul when he said in Philippians 4:11 **“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”** However, this does remind me of the fact that Christians today are in a spiritual winter. Many Christians are cold to their brothers and sisters in Christ; many churches are cold to the needs of their sister churches; many pastors are cold to the needs of the saints. We need to be filled with the fire of the spirit, to melt the ice of indifference to the things of God. I pray for the fire of revival to fall on the churches of Christ, and especially this church in Brandon, Manitoba. I know that we are NOT to be content with spiritual mediocrity. I pray that through even the small things, like this copy of the Baptist Pillar, we can be reminded of the need to be on fire for Christ. No matter what the devil throws at us; no matter how the world hates us; no

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matter how the false churches spurn us; we must be about our father's business. Do the work that he gave us. To the saints, we must live for him; to the pastors, you must preach the word; to the churches, we must strive to rescue the lost! And as always...

Keep on keeping on!!!

BBC Brandon Update

The church here in Brandon, Manitoba earnestly covets your prayers. We are in a severe lockdown, and face exceptionally large fines from the government if we meet. The fine for a church meeting is \$5,000 and each individual can also face a \$1,300 fine as well. With even just 30 people attending, the fine can be as steep as \$44,000! This is an egregious attack on our freedoms in this country. Our church has joined a court action against the government of Manitoba, but the courts move at a snail's pace. It seems like the restrictions will be lifted before the courts hear the case. We must trust God as we move through these things, but we keep in mind that we are to obey God rather than man.

As we move through this lockdown, we continue to need prayers for a pastor. Our church is in very great need of a pastor, and with this lockdown, we have had no opportunity to even have a pastor or missionary visit our church in months. The men of the church are filling in, to the best of our abilities, but we recognize our shortcomings and pray for God's hand in this matter.

A Letter from Parson Jones

Attendance at church last Sunday was mighty poor. I don't reckon I oughta grumble 'cause I had a bunch of sick members, and when you add to all that my shut-Ins, we don't have a site of pew fillers.

So, I went ahead and preached to what I had. Only thing was the echo in the near empty church hurt my ears. My Madam said I needed to get out and ride a spell, and let the fresh air clear my head. It done the trick. Our little ride not only cleared my head, it made me feel right good inside. What I saw made me rejoice. I saw miracle after miracle.

Ole Hezekiah, who had been deathly sick that very morning, had roused up and was riding down the highway with his fishing poles. No, nothin' but a miracle could have rescued Old Hez from the jaws of death in such a short time.

Now there's Rufe's brother. Rufe told me Sunday morning that his brother's back was in fowl shape, and that they was afraid an operation was gonna be necessary. Well, we remembered him in our prayers; and lo and behold, at two o'clock there he stood at the driving range hitting golf balls. If that wasn't a quick recovery, I don't know what is.

All told, about 20 of my sick folks had roused up and were taking nourishment in one form or another. But what really made me happy was to see so many of my shut-ins out riding around and enjoying the world.

Hezekiah's pa, who don't attend church 'cause he can't stand crowds, was headed for the drag races. Sister Nell's mama, who was too weak to get outa the house, was in town shopping. Ellie Nickelsinger's sister, who can't come on account of her kidneys, stood in line two hours to get into the show. It was a show about *The Miracle Worker*. I thought it was right appropriate, seeing as how a miracle had happened to her.

Yes, sir, it thrilled my heart to see what I seen. I ought to have a packed house next Sunday with all my sick folks being healed and shut-ins being set free. I just hope they don't overdo themselves before next Sunday and have a relapse.

I gotta go now and play with my smallest young'un. He is gonna be the farmer, and I'm gonna be the goat. Tin cans will be easy to eat after what I've swallowed.

Revival

Art Sadlier

From *Sound the Trumpet!*, March 2014

We are living in an environment which draws our hearts away from the Lord and the things of God. We are tainted by a Sodom-like culture and yet we have a false sense of spirituality that deceives us and blinds us to our low spiritual condition. I think it is no coincidence that in these last days we see our lives reflected in the record of the Laodicean church of the last days.

The message to Laodicea shouts out to us. "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue 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)

What more accurate description could we have of the church of the present hour? We cannot honestly deny our condition. We as believers have lost our separation from the world and we seem to be unaware of it. Our indifference to the demands of God's Word has grieved the Spirit and left our hearts lukewarm no matter how much we profess our allegiance to Christ. We seem to have lost our understanding of what the church is; what it is to be and what it is to be doing. We have shaped the church after the world until the church is no longer recognizable to the Biblical pattern.

One of the misconceptions that has stumbled us is the notion that we were born to be happy, the truth is that we were born to be holy. God does want us to be happy; He is the author of joy and pleasure. However true joy and real pleasure can only be found where holiness reigns supreme. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart" or happy are the holy.

God is more concerned with the state of people's hearts than with the state of their feelings. The pursuit of holiness will ultimately end with the joy of the Lord.

We stand today with Isaiah who cried out to the God so long ago, "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." (Isaiah 6:5)

Let us be honest, we need revival. We need the winds of God to sweep over our souls not our emotions. Emotional experience lasts but an hour and then our hearts are harder than before.

We need a revival that changes our lives as it did the lives of the disciples. True revival is inscribed on the pages of the New Testament.

"And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him." (Matthew 4:22) They forsook all to follow Him, they followed Him, no turning back until they willingly laid down their lives for Him.

Jesus described what a true disciple looks like. "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33) That brings conviction to my own heart and it is a rebuke to us all. I think over the years how weary I have grown listening to men explain away what Jesus so clearly taught here.

Jesus spoke to the rich young ruler and challenged him to give up all that he had. "Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich." (Luke 18:22-23) Do you get the impression that there is no middle ground with the Lord regarding discipleship?

The church has a thousand new methods, new programs, new music, new ideas, seminars, promotions and devices and yet none of it works, we need revival not the building of a house of cards. The most beautiful golden calf is still a golden calf.

We can have revival but we will not pay the price so we do not see souls being saved, we do not see the power of God in our lives and in our churches. Instead of being smitten with conviction the world laughs at us.

A. W. Tozer laid out the way to revival for you and I. Dare we pay the price? He has given us a sure formula:

1. GET THOROUGHLY DISSATISFIED WITH YOURSELF

Complacency is the deadly enemy of spiritual progress. The contented soul is the stagnant soul. When speaking of earthly goods Paul could say, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Philippians 4:11) However when referring to his spiritual life he testified, "I press toward the mark." (Philippians 3:14) "Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee." (II Timothy 1:6)

2. SET YOUR FACE LIKE A FLINT TOWARD A SWEEPING TRANSFORMATION OF YOUR LIFE

Timid experimenters are tagged for failure before they start. We must throw our whole soul into our desire for God.

3. PUT YOURSELF IN THE WAY OF THE BLESSING

It is a mistake to look for grace to visit us as a kind of benign magic, or to expect God's help to come as a windfall apart from conditions known and met. There are plainly marked paths which lead straight to the green pastures; let us walk in them. To desire revival, for instance, and at the same time to neglect prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.

4. DO A THOROUGH JOB OF REPENTING

Do not hurry to get it over with. Hasty repentance means shallow spiritual experience and lack of certainty in the whole life. Let godly sorrow do her healing work. Until we allow the consciousness of sin to wound us, we will never develop a fear of evil. It is our wretched habit of tolerating sin that keeps us in our half-dead condition.

5. MAKE RESTITUTION WHENEVER POSSIBLE

If you owe a debt, pay it. If you have quarreled with anyone, go as far as you can in an effort to achieve reconciliation. As fully as possible, make the crooked things straight.

6. BRING YOUR LIFE INTO ACCORD WITH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

New Testament Scriptures as are designed to instruct us in the way of righteousness. An honest man with an open Bible and a pad and pencil is sure to find out what is wrong with him very quickly. I recommend that the self-examination be made on our knees rising to obey God's commandments as they are revealed to us from the Word.

7. BE SERIOUS-MINDED

You can well afford to see fewer comedy shows on TV. Unless you break away from the funny boys, every spiritual impression will continue to be lost to your heart, and that right in your own living room. The devil's ideals, moral standards and mental attitudes are being accepted by you without your knowing it. And you wonder why you can make no progress in your Christian life.

8. DELIBERATELY NARROW YOUR INTERESTS

The jack-of-all-trades is the master of none. The Christian life requires that we be specialists. Too many projects use up time and energy without bringing us nearer to God.

9. BEGIN TO WITNESS

Find something to do for God and your fellow men. Refuse to rust out. Make yourself available to your pastor and do anything you are asked to do. Do not insist upon a place of leadership. Learn to obey.

10. HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Begin to expect. Look up toward the throne where your Advocate sits at the right hand of God. All heaven is on your side. God will not disappoint you.

Is there someone who will break out of the pack and lead the way to a movement of God as the end of the age draws near? Oh that we might see once again a mighty movement of God's Spirit! That we might see a movement in our own hearts, a movement in our churches and a movement that will spill out on the world around us.

The cost is high, it will cost you the world, it will cost you your all, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (John 12:24)

Ye Are Not Your Own

Dr. Howell

From *The Baptist Preacher*, May
1847

*"Ye are not your
own, for ye are
bought with a
price." (1 Cor.
6:19, 20)*

What do we mean when we say that what we hold is not our own, but another's? We mean that we have no right to use it as our own. We must be governed in our use of it, simply by the direction of the owner. If we appropriate it to our own use, we are dishonest. We are guilty of robbery. Or, if he allows us to use it, or any part of it, for ourselves, we must be governed in all respects by his will. If a man commit his property into my hands for a term of time, I must surely do with it just what he prescribes.

And, again, we must give up what is not our own, when-ever the owner calls for it. If we refuse, we are dishonest. We have no right to retain either the whole, or any part of it. All of it is the owner's, and he is the only rightful proprietor. If you lend a man a hundred dollars, and when you call upon him for it he declines to surrender your property, or puts you off with a shilling, you would never trust him again.

Now this is precisely what is meant, when, in our text, it is said, "Ye are not your own." Whatever we possess is not our own, but Christ's. A certain nobleman delivered to his servant's talents, and said, "Occupy till I come." (Luke 19:13)

You are called by the name of Christ. You profess to be his. You say you are not your own. But have you ever reflected on the meaning of this confession? You are a professional man; your learning, and talent, and influence, are Christ's. What right have you to use them for the purpose of fostering your own ambition, or in any respect ministering to

yourself? If you thus use them, you rob Christ.

You are a minister of the gospel. You have been in a peculiar manner set apart to the service of the Saviour. You have, by your own will, laid yourself upon his altar. Have you then a right to live as other men live? Have you a right to shrink from hardship, and reproach, and inconvenience, and toil, and declare that you will serve Christ, but it must be in a comfortable settlement?

Have you a right to pursue what studies you please, to read what books you please, engage in what enterprises you please, for the sake of reputation, or honor, or power; or, in a word, to make your calling as an ambassador for Christ, an instrument for attaining to temporal ease, or honor, or benefit? Christ had infinitely greater facilities than you for doing this; did he use them thus? Paul was an abler and more learned man than you, yet he rejoiced in being made the offscouring of all things for Christ. (1 Cor. 4:13)

You are a merchant or mechanic. You are by industry and skill acquiring property and standing. But you say that these are not your own. By what right then do you use them as you do? In your arrangements at home and abroad, in your expenditures for pleasure or amusement, for yourselves or your children, in your principles of accumulation, I do not see that you even profess to differ from honest worldly men around you, who never profess that they are not their own.

But I have said that if anything with which you are entrusted is not your own, you are under obligation to surrender it up as soon as the owner calls for it. If what you hold be his, when he requires it, you have no right to retain it a moment longer.

Christ intimates his claim by the facts brought to your knowledge. A world for which he died is perishing. He has spread their case before you. They are demanding the Word of Life at your hands.

They will perish if you do not come to their aid. Your talents, and labors, and wealth, are necessary to save a world from destruction. If you do not surrender them when he thus demands them, what do you mean by saying you are not your own? Will a man rob God? (Mal. 3:8)

Christian minister and candidate for the ministry, have you heard the cry of perishing millions? Christ demands your services. Have you offered them to him? Have you ever brought it home to your conscience, "My talents are not my own, and Christ has a right to use them where he will?" Have you not often looked around you on your circle of friends, your goodly parish, the comforts of home, the respect with which you are treated by your fellow-citizens, and said in your heart, "I cannot give up all this for Christ?"

Christian layman, the salvation of the heathen cannot, unless by a miracle, be accomplished without your property. Christ demands it of you. It is a solemn fact. You cannot escape from it. He does not ask for that which you do not feel. He requires that you make sacrifices for him, and to do it to any extent that may be necessary for carrying on his work of mercy.