

SOME THINGS THE CHURCH NEEDS TODAY

Romans 13:11-14

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No doubt today's Church could stand a lot of improvement, especially in this country of America. How things have changed through these 300 years of America's history. Sunday is no longer recognized as a day set aside for worship and the Bible and prayer have been taken out of the schools. The ten commandments have been removed from most court rooms and in many cities/towns, the nativity scene cannot be placed on certain public properties. Churches in America certainly need some vital changes. The following thoughts come from a message by C.H. Spurgeon, entitled "The Kind of Revival Wanted by the Church."

I. THE CHURCH NEEDS A WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Power needs to be put into the preaching of the Word, thus inspiring believers with heavenly energy.
 - Affecting the hearts so that the weak and careless would turn back to God.
 - Changing people's interests from carnal activities to spiritual interests and activity.
2. Surely the Church can pray to and plead with the Lord to pour out His Holy Spirit and open the eyes of God's people.

II. THE CHURCH NEEDS REVIVING WITH OLD-FASHIONED DOCTRINE

1. Every doctrine and biblical truth has been undermined by the very ones who claim belief in them.
2. Old-fashioned gospel preaching is needed, not the watered down, "don't want to offend anybody" messages of today.
3. The Word of God must be the basis and foundation of all teaching, preaching pointing out the ruin, the redemption and the regeneration of mankind, making it very clear in unmistakable terms.

III. THE CHURCH NEEDS A REVIVAL OF PERSONAL GODLINESS

1. Anytime Christians fall from being steadfast to the Lord, the Church is tossed around but when their faith remains strong, the Church remains true to the Lord.
2. The Church needs more truly holy people who are alive with the Holy Spirit, who are dedicated to the Lord and His Word.
 - Every single Christian must live strictly for the Lord in order for the Church to be revived.

IV. THE CHURCH NEEDS A REVIVAL OF THE FAMILY

1. The Christian family has always been the strong hold, the foundation of Godliness in the earlier days when the Church was strong.
2. The Church is struggling today because its own members do not teach the Gospel to their own children.
 - Parents leave it up to the Church, to the Sunday School to instruct their children in the ways of the Lord, IF their children are ever in Church or Sunday School.

3. Families need to stand like a rock amidst all the wicked, lustful, sinful surrounds their children are growing up in. Families need to train up their children unto the ways of the Lord.

V. THE CHURCH NEEDS GOD-PLACED LEADERSHIP

1. God-called Church leaders are needed, those who have power in prayer because of their closeness to God.
2. Power from God does not come instantly, but is the product of a devoted life.
 - He that is a prince with God will be of high rank with others.
3. Sadly so many of today's Church "leaders" are of a "lean-to" kind of faith. What is needed in today's Church are those who are solid, who stand strong, who are not "people pleasers," who will stand bravely and openly speak the Bible truths, not some doctrine of man.

CONCLUSION:

1. No doubt the Church of today is nothing compared to the Church of years gone-by, for its members are absorbed in the things of the world, not the things of the Lord. Much help is needed.
2. May the Lord send to His Church in this country of America a revival of consecrated strength and heavenly energy!