

God's Restoration Movement

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Introduction: There is only one kind of restoration that pleases God.

- A. God restores the heart of people. **(Psa 23:1-3)**
 - 1. Anything less than this is to “play religion and to play church.” **(Joel 2:12-13)**
 - 2. What does God see in your heart?
- B. As a fruit of restored hearts we find obedience to God in all things.
 - 1. What should the local church be like? A restored heart will want to know and make corrections.
 - 2. Is it unspiritual to talk about the “one true church” or point out the differences between denominational practices and what our head wants? NO!
 - 3. Where is our emphasis when we say these things, the head or us? **(Col 2:18-19)**
- C. Are you in need of a restored heart?
 - 1. Just as we see in spring a renewal and revival of life, we too can have our hearts drift from fervent service to Him. **(Hos 14:7)**
 - 2. How does one come out of the spiritual doldrums and have this needed revival?

I. We must have our sight renewed.

- A. Jesus often spoke of closed hearts as blindness.
 - 1. Will the real blind man please stand up? **(Jn 9:32-41)**
 - 2. We need to see how easy it is for our hearts to deceive us. **(Jer 17:9-10)**
 - 3. Can I have great Bible knowledge and be blind? YES

“Revival and the exclusive love of comfortable truths are bitter enemies.”

- B. We must want to see our hearts.
 - 1. The opening of a heart is a dangerous process for both the speaker and the hearer. It is painful. **(Acts 2:37; 7:54)**

“Revival is ... God revealing himself to man in awful holiness and irresistible power.... If we find a revival that is not spoken against, we had better look again to ensure that it is a revival.” - Arthur Wallis

- 2. Only the humble will ultimately see and profit from this. **(Isa 57:15)**
 - 3. This is how suffering helps us. (Ex. “Discontentment in life always has a spiritual root. Look to your spiritual foundations first.”)
 - 4. The humble man will welcome an open Bible. He will listen.
- C. What is the greatest danger for the church at Cahaba Heights?
 - 1. That we let our prosperity and education put us to sleep. **(Rev 3:14-19)**
 - 2. History has show that the larger, prosperous churches in the cities are the leaders in every apostasy. Why is this?
 - 3. If we are going to be the exception we are going to have to be exceptional!

II. We must see God anew.

- A. If we were truly converted to Christ we were moved by God's glory.
 - 1. Satan's game plan is to keep you from seeing God. **(2 Cor 4:3-4)**
 - 2. Many are converted to local churches and the men in them. **(2 Cor 4:5-6)**
 - 3. We serve an awesome God. Do you see Him? If so your heart will be moved.
- B. Consider from Psalms 119 the things about God that revives us.

1. We see His word and not worthless things. (**Psa 119:25, 37**)
 2. We see His lovingkindness. (**Psa 119:88, 156; Psa 36:7**)
 3. We see His justice. (**Psa 119:149**)
 4. We trust in His judgements. (**Psa 119:156; 1 Sam 3:17-18**)
- B. Worship can keep our hearts renewed.
1. The right kind of worship will open hearts. (**Psa 73:14-17**)
 2. Why do we give such emphasis to the Lord's Supper? (**2 Pt 1:9; Gal 3:1**)
 3. If you do not see yourself before God today then you need to learn how to worship.
 - a. Are you focused on the presence of others or of God?
 - b. Do you approach this time in a casual way both in your heart and by your dress?
 - c. One of the great challenges by our young who are raised by Christians is to learn the reverence of this occasion and make the "common" "uncommon."

III. We need conviction of sin and of righteousness.

- A. God's word is powerful when it is unleashed. (**Jn 16:8-11**)
1. Do you really want this? Jesus will overturn many tables in the hearts of men. Many will be mad.
 2. Who did God call on to restore His people so they might receive Jesus? (**Mk 9:11-13**)
 3. Could John the Baptist preach here? (**Mt 3:2,7-10**)
 - a. Could the Pharisees have called John a brotherhood watchdog?
 - b. How we respond to current controversies will show much about us.
- B. Conviction does not come from a casual approach to God.
1. Does our worship challenge the hearts of all here? (**1 Cor 14:24-25**)
 2. What kind of preaching do you want? Our Elders have a great responsibility in this area. (**Acts 20:27-28**)
 3. Are we looking for something new for the sake of newness?

IV. We then will look to renew others.

- A. Are you involved with others? If so does your life have an influence? (**Mt 5:13-16**)
1. What things cause our lives to be an influence?
 2. Can the half-hearted Christian influence anyone? Unfortunately yes.
 3. Parents, what would your Children say is most important to you?
- B. If you are renewed you will be zealous. (**Rev 3:18-19**)
1. Do you know of any zealous Christians here? Do you know of any who are not zealous? Where do you fit?
 2. Which is better, zeal without knowledge or knowledge without zeal? (**Rom 10:1-2**)
 3. Why are home studies effective? It is because of what we hear and what we see. Word and example
- C. Are you a zealous person? If no, then when are you going to repent? (**Tit 2:14**)

Conclusion: Are you a part of God's restoration movement? (**Acts 3:19-21**)