Sermon Notes for June 8, 2014

If My People
II Chronicles 7:11-16

Introduction

Why should we talk about revival?

- It is because we care about our nation and the church.
- From 1990 to 2006, the population in America grew by 52 million people. During that same time church attendance dropped from 20.4% to 17.5%.
- Today, 23% of Americans profess faith in Christ and are actively involved in a church.
- But that means that 77% of the population do not have a consistent life-giving connection with a church.

What is revival?

- “Revival is the sovereign act of God, in which he restores his own backsliding people to repentance, faith and obedience.” Stephen Olford
- “Revival is the reanimating of those who already possess life.” C.E. Autrey
- It is “breaking up fallow ground.” Hosea 10:12
- It is “times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19
- But perhaps the clearest Biblical definition is II Chronicles 7:14.

I. What are the conditions for revival?

Solomon had just completed construction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

In his prayer in II Chronicles 6:12-42, Solomon identified seven specific situations where God’s people would seek God’s intervention.

- When a man swears an oath before God.
- When Israel is defeated by an enemy.
- When there is no rain (natural disasters).
- When there is famine or disease.
- When a foreigner comes to pray.
- When at war.
- When in captivity caused by sin.

God answered in 7:12-14 and gave four conditions.

If my people who are called by my name will:

- Humble themselves – subdue our pride and surrender our heart to God.
Pray – prayer includes a personal acknowledgement of our sin and a plea for mercy.
Seek my face – turning to God in faith and seeking his will and his righteousness.
Turn – we repent of our sin and turn from it.

II. Where there is genuine repentance there will be spiritual fruit.

What does God say he will do when we pray?

- I will hear from heaven.
- I will forgive their sin.
- I will heal their land.

This is a word of grace. Repentance leads to restoration.

There is a connection between the heart and the land.

The Welsh Revival of 1904.

Evan Robert’s message had four points.

- You must put away any unconfessed sin.
- You must put away any doubtful habit.
- You must obey the spirit promptly.
- You must confess Christ publicly.

Over 100,000 people were converted in Wales within 6 months.

The Welsh Revival spread to Korea, India and North America.

God makes himself known in ordinary places in powerful ways.

God uses ordinary people to accomplish his work.

Conclusion

Where are we headed in this series?

- We will look at the four major revivals in II Chronicles.
- We will look at some of the great revivals in church history.
- My prayer is Psalm 85:6. “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?”

Caedmon’s Song (614-680 A.D.)

Teach us again the greatest story ever told.
In time, the Carpenter began to travel
In every village challenging the people
To leave behind their selfish ways,
Be washed in living water,
And let God be their King.

You plundered death,
And made its jailhouse shudder –
Strode into life
To meet your startled friends.

I have a dream.
That all the world will meet you,
And know you, Jesus, in your living power.
That someday soon all people will hear your story
And hear it in a way they understand.