

What Happens When Revival Comes?

Text: Acts 19:11-Acts 20:1

I. THE REVIVAL

A. The True Witness

Acts 19:11, 12

Special miracles were wrought by God through the apostle Paul. Even the demons give testimony of Paul's authenticity. Acts 19:15: "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?"

B. The Counterfeit Attempt

Acts 19:14-16

These wayward children of the Jewish chief priest tried to duplicate what God was doing and were wounded and stripped by the demon possessed man and no doubt very embarrassed.

C. The Great Awakening

Acts 19:17-19

The name of Jesus was magnified. Something rather interesting took place. When the people observed and witnessed the counterfeit, the true witness of Paul and his team began to be heralded. We are taught by our Lord to ask prayerfully in His name. John 14:14: "If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it." This evokes the authority of Almighty God. In this true revival, Jesus was magnified. Paul, Timothy, Erastus and Alexander were not magnified, only Jesus.

When my wife and I took the ferry from the Scottish main land the Isles of Lewis and Skye, the two words we heard that describe revival were "Awakening" and "Conversion." The people referred to the revival as The Awakening and those who were saved were thoroughly converted. When Duncan Campbell, the great evangelist of the Hebrides Revival came to the Isle of Lewis he remarked that he "saw God in dungarees." He was observing the holiness that had captured those who were experiencing true revival, especially the common every-day man, who under the influence of revival was anything but common. Someone said to Duncan Campbell when just walking about the isle, "Take off your hat, Brother Campbell, you are on holy ground."

One of the modern evangelical ministers researching the Hebrides Revival seemed to be dumbfounded and rather disappointed when upon investigation of the revival he noticed the people were emphasizing the "thou shalt nots," rather than the "thou shalt." This actually makes sense, because the Bible says in Galatians 3:24: "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." The modern evangelical commented about the revival coming without guitars and drums. He was referring to the modern evangelical church that is caught up in praise and worship, which seems to someone like me reared in the sixties, to be more rock-n-roll. He was impressed, however, by their very reverent singing. In my opinion, he seemed so surprised that the move of God was not generated by a worldly sound. Before the great Hebrides revival, few young people were attending church. But when the revival broke out, in many places in the Hebrides, it was youth-led. The young people would so fill the churches that they would run out of seats and the young people

would stand in the vestibule and church yard to hear the preaching. Years after the great revival that swept the wind-swept isles off Scotland's mainland, Duncan Campbell was asked, "What is revival?" The old revivalist answered, "I am not thinking of crusades, or of special efforts convened and organized by man. That is not in my mind at all. Revival is something altogether different from evangelism on its highest level. Revival is a moving of God in the community, and suddenly the community becomes God-conscious before a word is said by any man representing any special effort."

Returning to our text, we notice the fear of God came upon the people, the name of Jesus was magnified, people confessed their sins and took action in their new faith. Specifically, Acts 19:19: "Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver." Experts say if those were silver denarii, each one was worth a day's wages for a farm worker or other laborer, so a total of about \$5.5 million. If they were silver talents, though, each one was worth a year's wages for that same laborer, so a total of about \$1.5 billion.

And now here's a biblical definition of revival: Acts 19:20: "So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

II. THE ROUTINE

Acts 19:21-22

After Paul had witnessed the birthing of a church in Ephesus with the mighty move of God, he purposed in his heart to go to regions beyond, while commissioning others such as Timothy and Erastus to do the same.

In the work of the Lord we all need to be looking forward to regions beyond and not become as Amos said, "...at ease in Zion..." (Amos 6:1b).

IV. THE RIOT

Acts 19:23-34

Acts 19:23 tells us, "And the same time there arose no small stir about that way." There is never a move of God without resistance from the Devil.

A. Revival Affects our Finances

Acts 19:25

B. Revival Is an Affront to Idolatry

Acts 19:26, 27

C. Revival Affects the Culture

Acts 19:29-34

V. THE RESULT

Acts 19:35-41

A. The Warfare is Spiritual

Acts 19:34-37

B. The Powers That Be Are Utilized

Acts 19:36-41

Romans 13:3, 4

Conclusion:

The populous in Ephesus is in utter confusion. The Bible says of God and His nature: I Corinthians 14:33: "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." Even though there is chaos and revolt in Ephesus, God can use even the unconverted to bring about peace and protection to his people. Acts 20:1: "And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia."

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