

God's Grace in Revival

by Don Simmons

God's judgment is upon our nation due to national impiety and immorality, but there is hope for revival through proclaiming the full counsel of God, repenting of apathy and sin, and seeking justice.

Duration: 29:09

Scripture: Isaiah 1:8

Topics: "God's Grace"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker reflects on the state of the nation and how it has turned away from God's law. He emphasizes the need for fearless preachers who are driven by the love of Christ to proclaim the gospel boldly in all areas of life. The speaker also highlights the consequences of national impiety and immorality, citing recent news events as examples. He concludes with a call to action, urging believers to live not for themselves but for Christ, and to confront the societal issues that are plaguing the nation.

Transcript

Well, thank you. Thank you so much. You know, it's going to be nice when we all sit at the feet of Jesus in fellowship.

Sounds like that's not going to be a lot longer, possibly. You know, Brother Edgar, when I had asked him what he wanted me to speak on regarding revival, he said one of the topics that some would like to hear more on would be grace. And, you know, it's all about grace.

It's all about grace. I was reading Isaiah tonight, actually, and verse 8 of chapter 1 says, And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. And I was reading Matthew Henry's commentary on that a while back, and Matthew Henry stated this regarding that passage, that national impiety and immorality bring national desolation.

I was just at work today just watching Fox News as it was on in the background and saw where, you know, 13 people had been killed at a naval base. It just reminded me just of the atrocities that are occurring on a regular basis here. Just reading the news on Fox News, just on my cell phone, and it talks about superbug threats of America and England and how this is just of epic proportions.

You read of the devastating floods in Colorado, and you hear of the fact that 56 million babies have been slaughtered in our country on the altar of convenience in the last 40 years. We see that pastors that speak

against homosexuality are being brought up against crimes of humanity. And you can't help but think that our nation is a nation that is under God's judgment.

And, you know, what rung a bell with me, Brother Blaine, when you just mentioned this a few minutes ago, you said there is a remnant here. And, you know, I was thinking about that, and, you know, I have struggled to find a remnant in this area, I feel like. Brother Hagin's family has been one of those that the Lord has blessed me with some really sweet fellowship.

And then, again, you recently, but in verse 9, just right after that, in Isaiah 1, it says, If the Lord of hosts had not left us a remnant, we should have become like Sodom, and we would have become like Gomorrah. You know, as you read in Genesis 18, we see where Abraham was basically bargaining with the Lord for Him not to destroy Sodom. He was interceding for Sodom.

And he said, Suppose there are 50 within the city. And he said, You know, if there are 50, I will destroy it. And he kept bargaining, and he got all the way down to 10.

And ultimately, God said, For the sake of 10, I will not destroy it. And that's encouraging that, to me, there's hope for America. Because if the church, if the true called out ones of God, those that are called out by God, that have been called out by God from before the creation, before the foundation of the world, if they will simply get on their hands and their knees and repent and do what we're called to do, I think God will bring about revival.

And I want us to turn, if you will, to Ephesians 2, 8 and 9. And this is probably one of the first passages I memorized after becoming a new creature in Christ. Ephesians 2, 8 and 9, we all know it by heart. And I'm actually going to read through verse 10.

But it says, For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing. It is the gift of God, not a result of works.

And the word here for works is ergon. It is business, employment, you know, that which one is occupied with in the Greek. And so it's not as a result of these works so that no one can boast.

In other words, our salvation is a free, completely free gift from a very gracious and loving Lord in which He offered His Son upon that cross. And that's all we can cling to for our salvation is the cross, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and founder of our faith and perfecter of our faith. But as we go on in that passage in verse 10, and this is the passage that for so many people we just overlook this.

It says, For we are His workmanship, those who are saved by grace, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Now, it's interesting to me that it says in verse 9, we're not saved as a result of works or our life, employment, but we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. And the word good in the Greek is excellent.

And the works there is the same ergon. It's your business. It's your employment.

It's what you do with your life. And it's that we should walk in them. In other words, to live one's life in a manner.

And this is what God has called us to do is to walk in good works. He did not save us. He did not extend that grace to us so that we can live our best life now here on earth.

At least when I say that, I don't mean it's a bad life. I just mean, brothers, that it is a life that is going to be full of struggles. It's going to be full of hatred by the world.

We're going to run cross grain to the world. The world is going to be going one direction. We're going to be going the opposite direction.

And so when we look at that, we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. I want you to hold your spot there, but go ahead and turn to 2 Corinthians chapter 5. In 2 Corinthians chapter 5, it talks about this work of grace in our hearts. It says this, it says, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

So in other words, anyone who is in Christ is a new creature or a new creation. He's been recreated by God. He has been born from above, according to John chapter 3. Old things have passed away.

Behold, all things become new. Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Now that we are ambassadors for Christ as though God were pleading through us, we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. Now I want you to notice a couple things in this passage. I want us to look at who it is that has the ministry of reconciliation.

And I would tell you, if you look at the grammar of this sentence structure, it's anyone who is a new creation. In fact, in verse 17, anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old is gone, the new has come.

And God is from God, just as we read in Ephesians 2.8.9, who through Christ reconciled us, those who are new creations, to himself and gave us, it's the same us who are the new creations who have been reconciled to him. He gave us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, in Christ God was reconciling us, the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us, again, those who are new creatures in Christ, the message of reconciliation.

You know, I'm not sure how many of you all read A.W. Pink, but I like reading a lot of the old guys, the old dead guys. In A.W. Pink, I was reading one of his books on the doctrine of hell a few weeks ago. I reread a passage, or not a passage, but a quote that I had written down years ago, but it reminded me of that statement.

It says, it is true that many are praying for worldwide revival, but it would be more timely and more scriptural for prayer to be made to the Lord of the harvest that he would raise up and thrust forth laborers who would fearlessly and faithfully preach those truths which are calculated to bring about revival. In other words, he's saying, you know, let's not sit around and pray about what we already know what we are to do. God's already given each and every one of us who have been born again, who are new creatures in Christ, he's already given us the ministry of reconciliation.

And what we must do is to go out and we are to make our appeal, our kids' appeal, boldly, fearlessly. In fact, if you go up in verse 14 of 2 Corinthians chapter 5, it says, for the love of Christ controls or moves or motivates us, compels us, because we have concluded this, that one has died for all, therefore all have died. He died for all that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

In other words, Christ didn't go to the cross and die the most brutal death imaginable, take upon the sin of the world, so that we may go and live comfortable, nice, easy, cushy lives. He died so that we may no longer live for ourselves, but for his sake, for him who for their sake died and was raised. You know, we read in Matthew chapter 22, when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, this is verse 34, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law? And he said to them, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment, and a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

These two commandments depend on all the law and the prophets. Now here's the key. If we are truly born again, if we truly have been given that ministry of reconciliation, if we truly are living not for ourselves, but for him who died for our sake, then this love, this greatest commandment he calls it, is going to be manifest in our lives.

We are going to have such a love for the Lord our God that we can't help but tell people about the most beautiful prize we have in our life. I mean, he is the pearl of great prize. He is that treasure hidden in the field.

And which of us, if we had inherited the greatest treasure on earth, would not want to go out and tell people about it? And yet, those of us who are new creatures in Christ, we have the greatest treasure, even beyond what the world can imagine. We have Christ dwelling within us. We have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us as individual believers.

And if we have that, then that should just be an outflowing of our lives to radiate that, to proclaim his goodness, to proclaim the glory of God and the glory of the one who died for us in our stead. And then the second greatest commandment, he said, is like it. He said, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Now I have been teaching at Liberty, the church that Brother Rich and I co-pastor. And I've been teaching a series on heaven and finished that up a few weeks ago and then began a series on hell. And I'll tell you, if we can just catch a glimpse of what hell is really like and see that the masses, the vast majority of people that we come in contact with are headed there without Christ, then we have won the battle because we see these people aren't going to simply a Christless eternity where they're going to be partying.

No, this is a place where they will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his fury. They'll be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels in the presence of the Lamb. God's word goes on to say in Revelation 14 that the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever and ever.

You know, I've heard one evangelist say, they're going to scream out, I want to die, I want to die, I want to die. And God's reply will be, you will never die, you will never die, you will never die. And that's a horrifying thing to me that the vast majority of people that I come in contact with, whether it be on the streets, whether it be in church, whether it be in my office at work, in the grocery store, in Walmart, wherever it be, the vast majority of them are heading for this place that God calls hell.

And I have to say, if the love of Christ really is controlling the remnant, those that God has called out from the world, we are going to proclaim this goodness. Whether you be like Brother Rich and I, who are simply

lay pastors, we're not professional clergy, but Wesley, John Wesley said this, of lay preachers who take the gospel to the streets, which is primarily where Rich and I have been taking the gospel to. I've been doing it for about five years, and I think Rich may be somewhere along that time frame, not exactly sure on him.

But Wesley, talking about the men that take the gospel to the streets, says, give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen. Such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. And so, brothers, here's what I see in our nation right now.

I see a nation that has spurned God's law. I see a nation that has taken their fist, and they have shaken their fist in God's face. We read from Isaiah chapter 1 verse 8 and 9 a while ago.

But here's what God says of such a nation, such a people that come and they offer their sacrifices, they offer their prayer, they offer their praise and their worship. In verse 12 of the same chapter, chapter 1 of Isaiah, he says, When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts, bring no more vain offerings. Incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations. I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feast, my soul hates.

They become a burden to me. I'm weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you.

Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood. And our nation, I think certainly we can all agree on this, that our nation is guilty of the blood of over 56 million babies that have been brutally murdered at the hands of men that we call doctors, health care professionals.

With the approval of our Supreme Court, it says your hands are full of blood. And here's the remedy. Wash yourselves.

Make yourselves clean. Remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes. Cease to do evil.

Learn to do good. Seek justice. Correct oppression.

Bring justice to the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause. Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord.

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.

But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Here I think we see the cure, brothers, and I think we all know that. I think that we, as men of God, are going to have to go to the streets.

We're going to have to proclaim the full counsel of God, and it's not going to be able to be done strictly within the walls of our churches. I think we're going to have to go outside the camp, and I think we are going to have to plead for these babies that are being slaughtered, that's bringing judgment upon our nation. Proverbs 24, 11, and 12 says this.

Rescue, and the word rescue there in Hebrew is nasal, which means a physical intervention. Rescue those who are being taken away to death. Hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.

If you say, Behold, we did not know this, does not he, God, who weighs the heart, perceive it? Does not he, God, who keeps watch over your soul, know it? And will he, God, not repay man according to his work? See, God is repaying our nation right now for our work. He's paying us for the blood of these 56 million that are crying out for justice. He's looking for justice, and all he's finding is iniquity.

God's word says in Jeremiah 5, verse 26, For wicked men are found among my people. They lurk like fowlers lying in wait. They set a trap, they catch men like a cage full of birds.

Their houses are full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and rich. They have grown fat and sleek.

They know no bounds in deeds of evil. They judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless to make it prosper. They do not defend the rights of the needy.

Shall I not punish them for these things? That sounds just like America. Our so-called pastors, professional pastors, and I know there are many godly men out there that are professional pastors that aren't this way. Men like Brother Don Corvell and others.

But the majority of the ones that I come in contact with sound exactly like what we read in Jeremiah chapter 6. They're fat, they're rich, they're fleecing the flock. They're not defending the flock. They're not going after them when they're straying because they don't want to lose their positions.

They don't want to speak out against national sins like homosexuality and abortion because of their 501c3 status. And so they're not judging with justice these pre-born children. God's Word says, An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land.

The prophets prophesy falsely and the priests rule at their direction. And my people love to have it so. But what will you do when the end comes? Brothers, I think we are in for some rough times.

But God's given us an answer. I think that if we the remnant will stand up, even be willing to stand in the gate, as Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 7, to stand in the gate of the Lord's house and proclaim there this word, and say, I hear the word of the Lord, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place.

Do not trust in these deceptive words, this is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord. For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods for your own harm, then I will let you dwell in this place, and the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever. So, here would be my plan of action, I think, that God has provided for us.

Those who the remnant, those who have spirit of Christ dwelling in us, to let the love of God compel us to preach the full counsel of God, preach the truth no matter what it may cost us. Let it be like a fire burning in our bones, and we are weary of holding it in. Let us be like Jeremiah the prophet and cry out in the streets, in the churches, in front of abortion mills, and let us proclaim the full counsel of God, and let us

repent of our apathy, of our national sins, of our personal sin, and of the sin within what we call churches today.

And I think if we do that, and we go back to God's word, and we stop the shedding of innocent blood, and we preach the full counsel, not fearing man whose breath is in his nostril, not fearing what the government can do to you, not fearing anything but God and sin, I think God will bring about a national revival. And brothers, that is what I pray for, and that is what I preach, and that is what I live by here in Little Rock. And I think my brother Rich, though he may not speak those exact same words, I think that would be the cry of his heart as well.

Brothers, that's really all I have to say. I don't know if you want me to lead off in prayer, or what would be next? As you feel led to do, brother. Sure.

If you'd like to lead off in prayer. Sure. I would like to do that, if that's okay.

Sure. Father, I just... Father, I can't even describe the gratitude that I have for your grace in my life, that you have given the most precious jewel of heaven, your Son, your only begotten Son, who came to earth and lived a perfect life, and died the most brutal death imaginable, far beyond human recognition, Father. And then who was buried, rose again after three days, and now dwells in the seat at your right hand.

Father, you gave him as a precious gift. So, Father, let the love that you have shed broad in our hearts, let it compel us to proclaim your gospel on the streets, in our workplaces, wherever we may be, Father, whether we be buying groceries or in Walmart or Starbucks, where Brother Edgar is. Let us not fear men, what they can do to us.

Let us be as bold as lions, Father. Father, I just pray that you will raise this remnant up from around our country, from around our nation, from around this world, Father, and that you will bring a worldwide revival in which your word is honored, in which Christ is honored, in which you are honored above all things. Father, we ask forgiveness, even we the remnant, Father, we ask forgiveness for our apathy, and not judging with justice, and not proclaiming the love of Christ.

Father, we just repent. We pledge, Father, by your grace to live for you all the rest of the days of our lives. Father, let us always remember your great commission, Father, to go and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

Father, we ask all these things in the name of Christ Jesus for His glory and His honor. Amen.

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